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Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-122
Friday
24 June 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 24 Jun

LD2406071394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0652 24 Jun 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow June 24 (ITAR-TASS)—The ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper describes today "sensational" proposals to extend the term of powers of Russian legislators by another two years as a sudden development in political events.

Most different opinions are expressed on this development in various quarters, including legislators.

Examining favourable arguments, the newspaper notes that any new elections will whip up a powerful wave of political struggle. The interests of the economy, production and the social sphere will again fall victim of politicis.

Besides, new positive elements have appeared now: The public accord treaty was signed, and it was possible to stabilise inflationary processes.

The president issued several important economic decrees and announced emergency measures to fight organised crime. All these raise confidence in authorities. The newspaper also quotes arguments "against": the very idea of extending legislators' powers needs amendments to the constitution, and this is possible only through a new nation-wide referendum during which passions will fly high.

"It is impossible to deny that the very idea of Eurasia symbolises that the nations of today's so-called post-Soviet space have common destinies," chairman of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord Sergey Shakhray says in an interview with the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper today.

"It is possible that public opinion will adopt another integration ideology. This is a question open for discussion. However, it is clear now that the Eurasian idea, as it was the case in the past, again became a banner of a very difficult 'transition' period. This idea reminds, for the umpteenth time, our peoples of 'their will for a common cause' awakening at the most difficult times of history.

The same newspaper features an article by Aleksey Arbatov, D.Sc. (history), who writes: "The top priority of the Russian foreign policy is to promote independence and stability of new neighbouring states as well as the development of good relations with them on an individual basis.

"If this is too expensive, we should invite to such a strategy other foreign countries in the framework of a new broad system of multilateral cooperation and security."

The TRUD newspaper pays attention to economic problems. "the Russian economy has set a record," the newspaper writes. "However, we do not hear loud commentaries, let alone fanfares.

"The record, as it is, is very significant: Russia reached the lowest level of inflation in may for the first time in two and a half years of reforms—6.9 per cent. It is the lowest in the past 30 months since november of the pre-reform year of 1991.

"But the government is in no hurry to receive congratulations. Firstly, there is no confidence that prices will not start rise again in July. Secondly, and this is the main thing, the drop in inflation was achieved by an exorbitant price: Industrial production continues to fall, and this nation-wide fall is assuming more disquieting and dangerous nature."

Commenting on the president's decree on urgent measures to protect population from banditry and other manifestations of organised crime, the NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA notes: "The president's decree means nothing but emergency measures: Bandit groups appeared not recently, while the criminal code written long ago has article 77 entitled 'banditry' providing for most strict punishment. However, nothing is heard about cases under this article, let alone court sentences...".

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper carries an interview with former Ukrainian Premier Leonid Kuchma touching on the problem of the Crimea.

"Many try to show the Crimea's desire for independence as a result of the activities of pro-Russian political forces in the region," he writes. "Sure, there are such forces. But it would be inadmissible simplification to limit this problem only to these activities.

"The general and presidential elections in the Crimea showed that the majority of population supports the present policy of the Crimean leadership and its desire for independent solution of problems.

"I'm deeply convinced that tension around the peninsula is linked with the general crisis in Ukraine. We should frankly and with criticism point to two main factors estranging the Crimea from Ukraine.

"The first is self-destruction of the Ukrainian economy. The second factor is politics. If we do not switch to regional bilingual practice and do not stop national-radicalisation of historical science, arts and public education, we shall witness conflicts in other Ukrainian regions as well."

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper features an interview with Colonel- General Valeriy Patrikeyev, commander of the Collective Peace- Keeping Force (CPKF) in Tajikistan.

"Despite the emerging stabilisation of the situation in Tajikistan, I warn anybody that this will not prompt the CPKF to decrease its vigilance and combat preparedness. I assure all interested sides: This will not take place."

The last stage of building the Argus platform began under the Russian programme "Mars-1996". The SANKT PETERBURGSKIE VEDOMOSTI newspaper reports that its development involves the all-Russian transport engineering institute, the author of many modifications of planet buggies.

The platform will start operating when a station is put into an orbit of the Mars. The Argus is to direct equipment on definite points of the planet's surface, ensuring precise transmission of information.

The ROSSIYSKIE VESTI claims that chemist Tamara Svishcheva carried out sensational experiments at Russian institutes. They corroborated a parasitic theory of cancer's origin, which was developed by Professor M. Nevedomsky and which was defeated in the 1960s.

Its essence is that the formidable ailment is caused by one-cell parasites. It is they and not human cells that start avalanche multiplication in a weakened organism.

Yeltsin Signs European Union Agreement

LD2406085994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0815 GMT 24 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yuriy Sizov, Vladimir Malyshev, and Yuriy Malinin]

[Text] Kerkira (Corfu), 24 Jun—A full-scale document comprising over 80 pages and translated into the 12 [as received] languages of the EU [European Union] member-countries has not yet been circulated in the press center in Kerkira. However, ITAR-TASS correspondents have learned from circles close to the Russian delegation that the main aim of the agreement is to facilitate trade, investments, and harmonious economic relations and to strengthen political and economic freedoms.

It follows from the agreement that a permanent political dialogue is being established between Russia and the EU, which both countries intend to develop and make more active. The document also envisages meetings between the Russian president and the chairmen of the EU Council and Commission. A political dialogue at parliamentary level is envisaged to be held twice a year.

The agreement plans to set up a cooperation council, which will monitor the implementation of this historic document. It will comprise members of the Russian Federation Government and leaders of the EU working bodies. A Parliamentary cooperation committee is also being set up.

The 10 sections of the agreement pay special attention to economic cooperation, including, in particular, articles on trade in nuclear materials and financial and cultural cooperation.

Further on Signing

LD2406081494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0735 GMT 24 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yuriy Sizov, Vladimir Malyshev, Yuriy Malinov]

[Text] Kerkira (Corfu), 24 Jun—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a historic document here today—the agreement on partnership and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the European Union. Jacques Delors, chairman of the European Commission, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou of Greece, which is ending its chairmanship of the European Union, as well as the leaders of the other EU member-countries put their signatures to the agreement.

Speaking at the ceremony, which was held in the church of St. George, Yeltsin stressed that it was a question of "a document of tremendous historical importance," of a decisive step in restoring the unity of the European continent.

This morning a meeting took place between the Russian president and Jacques Delors, the chairman of the European commission.

Notes Agreement's 'Historical Importance'

LD2406090794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0743 GMT 24 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yuriy Sizov, Vladimir Malyshev, and Yuriy Malinov]

[Text] Kerkira (Corfu), 24 Jun—Russian President Boris Yeltsin called the agreement on partnership and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the European Union a document of tremendous historical importance that had made it possible to take a decisive step toward restoring the unity of the European continent. He was speaking here today at the signing of the document with the leadership of the European Union. In the agreement, according to the Russian leader, the conditions and stages were precisely and clearly spelled out for Russia's return to economic Europe, moreover, "as an equal partner," as Yeltsin particularly stressed. This weighty document, comprising over 80 pages and 10 sections, had been prepared by expert specialists for signing for about two years.

Giving an appraisal of the agreement and the current economic and political situation on the continent, the Russian president noted that: The global political confrontation came to an end some years ago. But the consequences of the Cold War, according to him, continued to poison the international atmosphere. We have all begun to experience the growing threat of confrontation of a different kind. The system of closed trading within the framework of the former USSR and the CEMA quickly collapsed in the new conditions. The liberalization of economic life in Russia prompted our manufacturers to seek new markets in Europe. This, in Yeltsin's view, was creating an unpredictable situation in the trade in goods and services, in investment activities and so on. With the signing of the agreement, this threat is by-passing Europe, the Russian president emphasized, drawing particular attention to the fact that the European Union had rejected discriminatory approaches in economic ties with Russia. For its part, Russia, Yeltsin declared, had made a strategic choice in favor of integration into the world community and, primarily, with the EU. Today Russia is transforming itself into one of its most important partners.

In the opinion of the head of the Russian state, it is precisely Europe that is being called upon to teach the world an important lesson—a lesson of real cooperation and a lesson of true unification of efforts in the field of the economy, ecology, and in settling conflicts. In this connection Yeltsin drew the attention of the EU leaders to the fact that Russia has a vital interest in stability in the West and in the center of Europe. We are actively cooperating with European institutions in attempts to settle the Yugoslav crisis, and the EU and all the European countries, the Russian leader stated, can rely on Russia in this sense.

Addressing the leaders of the EU countries, Yeltsin said that he is relying on their appropriate attitude, and that of all the CSCE partners, as regards stability in the east of the continent. Advocating a deepening of the processes of integration and a broadening of the EU, the Russian leader expressed the opinion that this would yield fruit if it does not lead to the isolation of a lesser Europe in a greater Europe, and if a similar approach is shown with regard to the processes of integration within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

In order to build a truly unified Europe and in order that the 21st century should become the first century of peace for our continent, Yeltsin stressed, the whole path of coordination of interests must be travelled to its end. Every stop half-way, he stressed, could mean that all previous efforts have been wasted.

The signing of the agreement on partnership and cooperation between Russia and the European Union has enabled Russia and the EU to enter a qualitatively new stage of mutual relations. The prospects for stage-by-stage economic integration have been defined by joint efforts. The crux of it, according to the Russian president, is an improvement in the conditions for the access of Russian goods into the EU markets, a dynamic advancement toward a free exchange of goods, capital and services, and the creation of a national regime for setting up companies and for their activities.

The signing of the agreement took place in St. George's Church and, as the Russian leader pointed out, this is more than just happy coincidence. May St. George the victorious, he said, help us to vanquish the remnants of mistrust between one another and to find a solution to common problems.

Calls Accord 'Historic Step'

LD2406091494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0840 GMT 24 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yuriy Sizov and Vladimir Malyshev]

[Text] Kerkira (Corfu), 24 Jun—"We benefit from this agreement," Russian President Boris Yeltsin said on the Greek island of Kerkira where he signed today an important document—the agreement on partnership and cooperation between Russia and the European Union. Speaking to journalists immediately after the signing ceremony, he said that we are enter free trade in Europe as equals without any discrimination which existed in the past and which continues to exist in some other countries outside Europe. Therefore, it is a wise and strong move by the European community, by all its leaders and heads of state. The Russian president stressed: I think that a historic step has been made today which will not permit an economic cold war.

Yeltsin Stresses Cooperation

LD2306213194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2055 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Yuriy Sizov and Vladimir Malyshev]

[Text] Kerkyra June 23 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin declared on Thursday that an agreement on partnership and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the European Union belongs to major and significant events in the European political life. Yeltsin spoke at a dinner given in honor of heads of countries of the European Union and the Russian president by the Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou.

"We have been led to an agreement which will be signed tomorrow, by a sense of responsibility for the future of Europe and a great desire to give our children a more peaceful, more stable and free continent," he said. "This document opens new possibilities for the construction of genuinely integral, prosperous and safe Europe which plays an important positive role in the world of the 21st Century," Yeltsin said.

"The main task now is to realise the agreement as soon as possible and with the maximum result," the Russian president said. "It is in the interests of both Russia and the European Union - two largest political and economic centers of Europe, two powerful trade and economic partners. We shall imminently have to resolve problems which we have failed to resolve until now," he pointed out.

Speaking about concrete tasks which will have to be resolved in the near future, Yeltsin noted that it will be necessary to give Russia an access to the European Investment Bank and begin to unconditionally apply GATT norms and rules in mutual trade. It is necessary to facilitate visa regime for Russian citizens in EC countries, he added.

According to the Russian president, lifting restrictions on Russian goods in the EC market is of tremendous importance for the success of democratic transformations and market reforms in Russia. In his opinion, "the agreement lays a good basis for this." Yeltsin expressed confidence that the development of large-scale cooperation with Russia will give considerable advantages to states of the European Union. "This is a way to stepping up economic activities, the solution of social problems and primarily, the problem of unemployment," the Russian president said.

Yeltsin To Stay in Greece for 'A Few Days'

LD2306203094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2023 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Yuriy Sizov, Vladimir Malyshev, and Yuriy Malinov]

[Text] Corfou (Kerkyra) June 24 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin will spend a few days in Greece as a guest after completion of his visit to this country on June 24. During the visit an agreement on partnership and cooperation between Russia and the European Union will be signed, ITAR-TASS was informed of this by some sources in the Russian delegation.

Churkin Sees Progress in EU Cooperation Talks

LD2306153394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1000 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yuriy Sizov, Vladimir Malyshev, and Yuriy Manilov]

[Text] Kerkyra (Corfu), 23 Jun—"Extensive, hard work over a year and a half has ended with an intensive burst of progress," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today, replying to a question about the significance of the forthcoming signing of the agreement on partnership and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the European Union [EU].

Different countries, he stressed, have approached the establishment of relations with the European Union in different ways. Often those relations have been of disadvantage to those states. As for Russia, we have taken the path of signing a full- scale document which reflects not only Russia's political, but also its economic interests.

The representative of the Russian foreign policy department said that the talks were difficult. The final compromises were reached literally over the final weeks of work on the document. "We are grateful to our Greek friends," Churkin noted in particular, "who, as EU chairmen, have shown commitment and energy in ensuring that work was completed on the agreement which will be initialled this evening and signed tomorrow by Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and the EU leadership."

Spokesman Optimistic About Russian-EC Cooperation

LD2306173194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1540 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Koslov]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jun—Grigoriy Karasin, head of the Press and Information Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, described the Russian president's visits to Corfu and Brussels as Russia's and the EC's contribution toward preventing the division of the European continent and establishing a prosperous and secure Europe. Both events, he noted, will not just determine the course of future relations with Russia in many ways, but also positively affect the general climate of international relations.

The 'Partnership for Peace' program and the protocol that was made public in Brussels which give impetus to the process of further development of the 'Russia-NATO' bilateral program of deeper cooperation are fully in the national interests of Russia as a great power, in the view of their specific features and the general mood in Europe, which reflects the desire for deeper trust and stability. According to Karasin, the signing of the Brussels documents signifies a mutual agreement between Russia and NATO as two major partners in European and global security.

The upcoming conclusion of the full-scale agreement on partnership and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the EC will bring cooperation between Russia and the EC to a new level, Karasin said. "This will be of enormous potential benefit for the Russian economy, access of our goods to the European markets, and for the deepening of the mutually beneficial processes of economic development in the European region. The EC too, might draw tangible benefits from closer cooperation with Russia, such as a boost to its economy, easing the unemployment problems, and opening up new markets," the Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed.

Clinton Welcomes Russia's Joining Partnership for Peace

LD2306151494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1454 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Barsukov]

[Text] Washington June 23 Tass—U.S. President Bill Clinton welcomed Russia's joining the NATO "Partnership for Peace" programme on Wednesday [22 June], and called it an important step on the path to create a safer world after the "Cold War".

Speaking at a ceremomy held to mark the 50th anniversary of U.S. military personnel rights day, the President recalled that not many days have passed from the moment, the Americans and Russians could say, for the first time since both countries acquired nuclear weapon, that they no more have their nuclear missiles targeted towards each other.

Now Russia has made a decision to join 20 other countries of the former Soviet Union, East and West Europe, which are participating in NATO's "Partnership for Peace" progamme, to cooperate in planning and conducting joint war manoeuvres and join efforts in the name of a common future, the creation of a united Europe, where neighbours will respect each other's borders and cooperate in the name of general security and progress, the U.S. head of state said.

To the applause of participants in the ceremony, the President said that he would like to join the U.S. secretary of state, who was present at the signing of the documents in Brussels and congratulate the Russian people and its leaders on this far-sighted choice. President Clinton described it as one more step on the long path of mankind's eternal urge towards peace, and thanked them.

Paper Notes 'Contradictions' With NATO

PM2306155994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jun 94 First Edition pp 1-2

[Article by Boris Filippov: "Accepted With a Period of Probation"]

[Text] Russia has subscribed to NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program. At NATO Headquarters in Brussels Wednesday Andrey Kozyrev, Russian Federation minister of foreign affairs, signed a framework document on the general principles of participation in this program, whose aims have already been supported by 20 European states.

International observers have unanimously called Russia's signing of this program a most important stage in the new relations of security which have taken shape since the end of the "Cold War." Although the program might be far from perfect, it will, nevertheless, significantly strengthen mutual trust and openness in the interests of all European states. As a transitional form of cooperation, the program will provide both NATO and Russia with time and opportunities to formulate more clearly the terms of Russia's joining the North Atlantic Alliance.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has called the signing of the treaty one more stage on the way to uniting Russia with the West. In actual fact, however, it is, rather, part of a policy based on the "wait and see" principle. If in time it becomes clear that the economic and democratic reforms in Russia are becoming stronger, then there will be no difficulties in the way of further rapprochement; if not, however, there will be no need for NATO to regret that caution was displayed in the past, the BBC points out.

Russia has been granted special status with due regard to the fact that its joining NATO is not envisaged in the long term, Radio Deutsche Welle reports. But Russia has had to make concessions not only on this point. The NATO alliance has denied Moscow a rigid consultation mechanism and the right to vote on the alliance's affairs.

But, however positively Russia's subscribing to the "Partnership for Peace" program is evaluated, it is clear that this certainly does not mean the elimination of the contradictions between Russia and NATO over the aims of this cooperation.

Zhirinovskiy Wants Russia-NATO PFP Document Annulled

LD2306201894 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy intends to have the document on Russia's participation in the NATO PFP [Partnership for Peace] program annulled. According to the leader of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia], the document has no legal force. Zhirinovskiy again confirmed that he will demand the resignation of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, in this case, for signing the framework document with NATO. Kozyrev had no right to sign this program since the State Duma was categorically against, Zhirinovskiy said.

Armed Forces Paper Welcomes 'Partnership for Peace'

PM2306113394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 3

[Article by Manki Ponomarev: "Russia and NATO Building Bridges"]

[Excerpts] For many years the European continent was split by a deep abyss which divided the countries of the East and the countries of the West. It used to seem simply impassable—in the political, economic, ideological, and military respects. One side was personified by the Warsaw Pact, the other by the North Atlantic bloc.

But times have changed. There is no longer a Soviet Union or a Warsaw Pact. Even the former abyss has disappeared. Russia and the Western countries have taken the path of developing cooperation. The embodiment of this new era in international life was the signing by Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at NATO headquarters of the Partnership for Peace program, adopted by the alliance in January this year. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that, generally speaking, the path toward Russia's entry into partnership relations with NATO essentially began at the meeting that Army General Pavel Grachev, the Russian defense minister, had in Brussels in May. Subsequently, however, the Foreign Ministry virtually took over all the work preparatory to the signing of the framework document and the final protocol. Defense Ministry representatives were effectively eliminated from this work, even though the implementation of all the military measures within the partnership framework will, naturally, be the responsibility of the Russian Armed Forces.

Be that as it may, the most important thing is that the implementation of the Partnership for Peace program as far as Russia and NATO are concerned will be a bridge across that abyss which divided Europe until just a few years ago. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Chernomyrdin Continues U.S. Visit

Meets With President Clinton

LD2306192894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1551 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Washington June 23 TASS—U.S. President Bill Clinton has met chairman of the Russian Government Viktor Chernomyrdin in the White House on Thursday. Chernmomyrdin leads a Russian delegation attending a session of the intergovernment Russo-American commission for economic and technological cooperation. The press was not admitted to the talks.

Later in the day, co-chairman of the commission, U.S. Vice- President Albert Gore, and the Russian prime minister are expected to sign a number of agreements on the expansion of cooperation between the two countries in different fields and give a joint news conference.

White House Releases Details

LD2306212294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2054 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Borisenko, Igor Barsukov, and Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington June 24 TASS—On Thursday, U.S. President Bill Clinton received Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin who is at the head of the Russian delegation at a session of the joint Russo-American commission on economic and technological cooperation.

The meeting took place in the White House behind closed doors. According to White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers, the two parties paid most attention to the results of the third session of the so-called "Gore-Chernomyrdin" commission and to the agreements which were worked out during the session.

President Clinton expressed satisfaction with the way Russia's economic reforms develop, and the United States were concerned about their fate in the end of 1993 and in the beginning of 1994, she said.

Asked whether Clinton and Chernomyrdin discussed a definite date for the forthcoming Russo-American summit in Washington which has been provisionally scheduled for next September, the press secretary replied in the negative.

Calls Clinton Meeting 'Very Substantive'

LD2306223894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2016 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Borisenko, Pavel Vanichkin, and and Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Washington, 23 June—Today's meeting at the White House with the U.S. President Bill Clinton was "very substantive," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told a news conference. He said that during their conversation they touched on matters connected with the upcoming meeting in Naples in July of the heads of the leading industrially advanced countries, which will be attended by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Signs U.S.-Russian Accords

LD2306195594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1827 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Borisenko, Pavel Vanichkin, and Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Washington, 23 June—U.S. Vice President Albert Gore described the results of the session of the intergovernmental Russian-American commission on economic and technological cooperation as "an outstanding success." In two days the commisssion, whose co-chairman is Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government, drew up a number of agreements between the two countries. The ceremony at which the documents were signed took place on Thursday in the conference hall of the government complex attached to the White House.

Viktor Chernomyrdin and Albert Gore signed the Russian-American agreement on ecology, the statement on the principles of information exchange, the agreement on the shutting down of plutonium-making reactors, as well as the joint statement on cooperation in setting up an orbital station.

Albert Gore stressed that 22 documents were signed that are opening up prospects for cooperation between the two countries in different areas. Assessing the results of the third session of the Russian-American commission highly, the U.S. vice president stressed: "As your partners and as your friends, we are acting together with you for the sake of furthering progress."

Viktor Chernomyrdin noted that the documents signed are "landmarks in the relations" between the two countries, and we are now faced with the task of filling the agreements reached with specific content.

Comments on Washington Visit

LD2406092294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0846 GMT 24 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Borisenko, Pavel Vanichkin, Oleg Velichko and Vitaliy Chukseyev]

[Text] Washington June 24 TASS—U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore described as "an outstanding success" the results of the session of the intergovernment Russian-American commission on economic and technological cooperation.

The commission which is co-chaired by Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin drafted several agreements between the two countries over the two days of its work. Their signing ceremony was held on Thursday at the conference hall of the administration complex adjoining the White House.

Chernomyrdin and Gore put their signatures under the Russian- American agreement in the sphere of ecology, the statement on the principles of information exchange, the agreement on closing down plutonium-producing reactors as well as the joint statement on cooperation in building an orbital station.

The sides signed another 22 documents opening prospects for cooperation between the two countries in various spheres, including a 400-million-dollar contract on financing the shuttle-Mir programme.

Praising the results of the session, the U.S. Vice-President stressed that the two countries have established close and fruitful relations at many levels. The United States as a Russian partner and friend operates jointly with the Russian Federation for the sake of continuing progress, he added.

Gore called the agreement on the participation of U.S. oil companies Marathon oil and Mcdermott in developing the oil and gas deposits on Sakhalin shelf as the largest American investment in Russia.

The project is worth ten billion dollars. This is a very positive signal to American investors that they can successfuly do business in Russia, he continued.

The Vice-President called as very important the agreement on closing down the plutonium-producing reactors in Tomsk and Krasnoyarsk. This document is graphic evidence of mutual determination to act jointly to strengthen the regime of nuclear non-proliferation, he stressed.

He announced that the next, fourth session of the Russian- American commission on economic and technological cooperation will be held in Moscow next winter.

For his part, Chernomyrdin noted that Russia and the U.S. now face the task of filling up the reached agreements with concrete content. "Our meetings were held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding," he continued.

"indeed, there were difficulties, but we have overcome them. The achieved agreements are landmarks in relations between our states. However, we should now start work so that these agreements should yield practical results."

Appraising the results of a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton which was held at the White House earlier in the day, Chernomyrdin said that it was "very useful and fruitful". "We discussed the results of the Russian-American commission on economic and technological cooperation," he noted.

"We also discussed the G7 summit in Naples next July to be attended by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Some issues examined at the present session of the Russian-American commission will possibly be discussed at the Naples session."

The premier expressed confidence that President Clinton and he "established mutual understanding on issues under discussion". "I do not think that we have such problems which could not be resolved," Chernomyrdin stressed.

Dealing with cooperation between the two countries in space explorations, he noted that it is being carried "on an equal footing". "We have a potential in some areas and are ready to share it with other countries.

"The United States also can share their possibilities, and the two countries will only benefit by this." Turning to prospects for cooperation between the two countries in science, the premier said that "the sphere of operations of the Russian-American commission will be boosted", and questions of public health will be put on the agenda of the next session to be held in Moscow.

"If we can pool our resources in this sphere, the two nations will undoubtedly benefit by this," he added.

Participants in the news conference which was held on the results of the Russian-American commission, raised the question on the nuclear programme of North Korea and the role played by Russia in a search for settling this problem.

The U.S. Administration praises Russia's assistance and cooperation in attempts to settle the question of North Korea's nuclear programme, Gore noted. According to the Vice-President, contacts between Russian and U.S. foreign ministries on North Korea's nuclear programme as well as discussions held at other levels were very useful.

"The freezing" of North Korea's nuclear programme and agreement to hold a meeting between the leaders of the North and South Koreas are a very positive development of events, the Vice-President noted. He expressed hope for a settlement of this problem.

"Measures taken in this respect are an achievement as it is," the Russian premier said in turn. "It should be noted that all this was achieved with the participation of Russia." Chernomyrdin pointed to the need for broad international cooperation in settling this problem.

Speaking of prospects for a Bosnian settlement, Chernomyrdin expressed opinion that Russia, the U.S. and other countries should find a solution to this problem. "We should extinguish the flames which can develop into a fire at any time."

The Russian premier expressed confidence that Russia and the U.S. "are marching in the right direction", looking for possibilities of a settlement in Bosnia and added that a solution of this problem is not far away.

Comments on U.S. Cooperation

LD2406110094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1920 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Borisenko, Pavel Vanichkin, and Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Washington, 23 Jun—The meeting that Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Government held with members of the American-Russian business council was an important element in the program of his stay in the U.S. capital. The meeting was closed to the press but the ITAR-TASS correspondents managed to learn from informed sources that during the meeting the Russian prime minister gave most attention to two problems—the development of reforms and the prospects for Russian-U.S. business cooperation.

Acknowledging that the economic situation in the country remains very complicated, Chernomyrdin at the same time pointed out that some encouraging signs had appeared, which indicated that the situation was improving. He singled out among these the fact that inflation was being brought under control and this makes it possible to really get down to improving the climate for investment and to tackle problems of social protection for the population.

Touching on problems of foreign aid for Russia, Chernomyrdin noted that the period when the country needed direct massive support from the United States had passed and what was on the agenda now was the question of how to arrange mutually advantageous cooperation. The demand for foreign investment was vast—in the order of $15-20 billion per year. In other words, over the next 15 years Russia is in a position to "digest" about $300 billion from abroad, primarily from the United States. However, Moscow is interested in attracting primarily private investors.

The Russian prime minister stressed that the increase in foreign investments in the economy depends on two basic factors. First, his government must draw up measures to create the most favorable national regime for foreign businessmen to operate in. Second, U.S. businessmen must display initiative in response to this.

Chernomyrdin expressed concern over some obstacles that still exist in the United States and which obstruct the development of bilateral trade. In particular, he cited the fact that Russia had still not been given permanent most favored nation status in trade with the U.S. and he also recalled the anti-dumping restrictions on Russian exports.

The head of the Russian Government said that the results of the third session of the "Gore-Chernomyrdin" commission show that the two countries are moving in the right direction and that in line with this movement an increasing role is beginning to be played by bilateral links between private businesses.

Further on Talks, Relations

PM2406095994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 24 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Pavel Shinkarenko: "Partnership Requires Repeal of Jackson-Vanik Amendment"]

[Text] The Russian prime minister, who took part in the work of the Russian-U.S. intergovernment commission for economic and technical cooperation which ended yesterday, has used his stay in Washington to lend new impetus to Russian-U.S. relations, primarily in the economic field.

The partnership relations which are taking shape between Moscow and Washington have had a positive effect on trade dialogue. In 1993 trade turnover between Russia and the United States increased 20 percent compared with 1992 and was $4.3 billion (in 1992 it was about $3.6 billion). There has been an almost threefold increase in exports—from $639.9 million to $1.997 billion, which has made it possible in practice to reduce to a minimum the traditional deficit in reciprocal trade: In 1992 Russian exports were a little more than four times less than imports from the United States. Unfortunately the structure of trade turnover remains the same—reciprocal deliveries are based on raw material and agricultural goods. At a time when machine building articles make up only 2 percent of Russian exports to the United States.

An analysis conducted by experts on the eve of the Washington session showed that it is not so much the uncompetitive nature of many Russian goods which remain a serious obstacle in mutual trade as U.S. barriers on the path of high-technology items made in Russia and the tough antidumping legislation. That is why, when he set off across the ocean to take part in the intergovernment commission, Viktor Chernomyrdin was pursuing two more attendant aims. The first was to persuade legislators to repeal the notorious Jackson-Vanik amendments to the trade law which makes granting partners most-favored nation status dependent on freedom to leave those countries, while the second aim was to get the U.S. Administration to recognize Russia's status as a country with a transitional market economy.

Viktor Chernomyrdin's meeting yesterday with President Bill Clinton and the talk the day before in the U.S. Congress seems to have advanced matters from a standstill. Viktor Stepanovich said that he "succeeded in persuading the U.S. Administration to grant Russia the status of a country with a transitional market economy" and Democratic Senator Patrick Leahy commented as follows on Moscow's request: "I think that restrictions on trade with Russia should be repealed and will be repealed. That will require a certain amount of work. But many restrictions are left from the cold war and they do not apply to the present day."

Further Comments on Accords

LD2406074594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0725 GMT 24 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vitaliy Chukseyev]

[Text] Washington June 24 TASS—One can say that the talks have been a success, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said on Thursday at the close of the session of the Chernomyrin-Gore commission and the Washington part of the visit. A total of 26 agreements envisaging the development of Russian-U.S. cooperation in various fields have been signed, he said.

"While in Washington, we signed agremeents, which are in point of fact, contracts which will help support our branches of industry which have found themselves in a hard position. It is primarily a question of space research and space-related sectors," Chernomyrdin told ITAR-TASS.

"Just as the Sakhalin-2 agreement, they mean the creation of a lot of job opportunities and provide a way out in the field of financing. Behind these, I perceive the social aspect, i.e. we shall not let in agreements which will not provide a solution to social issues. Take the agreement on ecology and the power industry—behind them, I see the social welfare aspect as well," he said.

Touching upon his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in the White House on Thursday, Chernomyrdin emphasised that the best, most positive evaluation of relations between the two countries had been made during the conversation.

Asked about an extent to which the forthcoming Yeltsin-Clinton meeting in September was discussed during Chernomyrdin's stay in Washington, the Russian prime minister said the matters were examined but a number of them can be decided upon only at the presidential level, not governmental one. Besides, it is necessary to see how the agreements signed will be implemented and developed, Chernomyrdin said.

Comments on Clinton Meeting

LD2406000894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2107 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vitaliy Chukseyev]

[Text] Washington, 24 June— It may be said that the talks were a success, Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russia Federation Government, declared on Thursday at the end of the work of the Chernomyrdin-Gore commission and of the Washington part of his visit. All in all, 26 agreements were signed, providing for the development of Russo-American cooperation in various fields.

In Washington, he said, agreements were signed that were essentially contracts that would help to support our industries that are currently in a difficult position. First and foremost, the prime minister noted, there is the space industry and the industries that back it up. Like the "Sakhalin-2" agreement, they mean the creation of many jobs and a solution to the financial problems. Beyond this, I am also keeping an eye on the social issues; in other words, we shall not let any agreements through unless there is provision in them for resolving social issues. Take the agreements in the field of ecology and power engineering—here too the social sphere is discernible.

Touching on his meeting with the U.S. President Bill Clinton on Thursday Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed that during it a very good and positive assessment had been given of relations between the two countries.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent asked to what extent the coming meeting in September between the Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton had been discussed during his stay in Washington. These matters, Viktor Chernomyrdin said, had been touched on, but a number of them can be decided only at presidential level and not at government level. In addition it needs to be seen how the agreements already signed will develop and be implemented.

Comments on Talks, Reactor Shutdown

LD2306143594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1358 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin and Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Washington June 23 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said that they managed to convince the U.S. Administration that Russia should be granted the status of a country with a transitional market economy. According to the prime minister, this was on of the main results achieved as a result of the work of the integovernment Russo-U.S. Commission for Economic and Technological Cooperation which met in session on Wednesday.

Late on Wednesday, Chernomyrdin answered journalists' questions. He came out for lifting restrictions impeding the establishment of normal trade and economic relations between Russia and the United States. Chernomyrdin mentioned Jackson-Vanik's amendment which is still in effect as one of these obstacles.

Touching upon the problem of the possible shut-down of Russian reactors for the production of plutonium and a ban to use them for the production of nuclear weapons, the prime minister made it clear that "Russia fulfills its international commitments." According to Chernomyrdin, during the talks with the American delegation an agreement was reached "on the U.S. participation in the construction of special storages on Russia's territory." The sides agreed that Russia would shut down double-purpose reactors, while the United States, in turn, would partially recompense the cost.

Chernomyrdin confirmed that President Boris Yeltsin would pay an official visit to the United States in September, adding that third session of the Russo-U.S. commission which is currently under way in Washington can be regarded as the first stage of the preparation for the Russo-U.S. summit.

Comments on Trade Restrictions

LD2306123094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who is in the USA, said that he had succeeded in persuading the American administration that it is necessary to acknowledge Russia as a country whose economy is in a state of transition. According to Chernomyrdin, U.S. leaders favor the lifting of unjustified restrictions on trade with Russia.

Departs Washington for Detroit

LD2306215194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2123 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Borisenko, Pavel Vanichkin, Oleg Velichko, and Vitaliy Chukseyev]

[Excerpt] Washington, 24 June [date as received]—After completing the official part of his visit to the United States, Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government, arrived in Detroit (Michigan), America's "car capital," from Washington on Thursday [23 June] evening.

On Friday, he will visit one of the General Motors factories—the (?Hamtramk) [Khamtramk] assembly center. [passage omitted]

Vorontsov Approved as New Ambassador to U.S.

LD2306145294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1432 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] It is now known that members of the parliamentary committee for international affairs met in private on Thursday to discuss the Yeltsin-proposed list of candidates for ambassadorial posts in several countries including the United States.

The committee approved the president's nominee, Yuliy Vorontsov, currently Russian ambassador to the United Nations, as head of the Russian embassy in Washington.

The post has remained vacant after the previous ambassador Vladimir Lukin was elected to parliament and was appointed head of its International Affairs Committee.

KGB Document Reveals DPRK Nuclear Potential

PM2306201794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jun 94 First Edition p 4

[Article by Yevgeniy Albats: "Back in 1990 the USSR KGB Reported That the DPRK Had Completed the Development of a Nuclear Device"]

[Text] The polemics over the DPRK and its nuclear weapons are becoming increasingly fascinating. Particularly when they come from people who are presumably competent in these matters.

As has been reported, spokesmen for our Atomic Energy Ministry assured the press that the DPRK does not posesses the requisite quantity of plutonium to develop a nuclear bomb. But the reactor in Yongbyon, in the development of which specialists from the aforementioned ministry were most actively involved, is apparently intended to serve national economic and scientific needs. One deduces from this that neither we nor any other countries have any need to fear that North Korean nuclear bombs will be dropping on our heads.

The Atomic Energy Ministry's view was fully confirmed by DPRK ambassador in Moscow Mr. Son Song-pil, who honored the State Duma International Affairs Committee with his presence: "We do not have the technical potential to produce nuclear weapons," he said.

Finally, Russian intelligence, as IZVESTIYA wrote recently, also denies that Pyongyang has the technology and capacity to produce nuclear weapons. This is amusing. Amusing because four years ago it said precisely the opposite, the words coming from Vladimir Kryuchkov, USSR KGB chairman at the time.

The document that is cited below is a memorandum from Kryuchkov (No. 363-K) to the USSR leadership, dated 22 February 1990 and headed "On the question of the development of nuclear weapons in the DPRK." Here is the full text:

"The KGB has been informed by a reliable source that research and development work is actively continuing in the DPRK on nuclear weapons. The North Korean leaders, in particular, Kim Chong-il, who is personally supervising the aforementioned research, are seeking military superiority over South Korea and are also pursuing the goal of joining the states that possess these weapons.

"According to available data, the development of the first nuclear device has been completed at the DPRK nuclear research center in Yongbyon, in Pyongan-pukto Province. There are no plans for testing it at the moment in order to conceal from the world public and international monitoring organizations the fact that nuclear weapons are being produced in the DPRK.

"The KGB is taking extra steps to check the data.

"This is for your information.

"KGB Chairman V. Kryuchkov."

A brief explanation is required. According to specialists, the device mentioned in Kryuchkov's memorandum is different from an actual nuclear bomb, in the same way, well, as... a woman who has only just woken up differs from one who is about to go out. That is, from the physics viewpoint, the nuclear bomb already exists, but further engineering and design efforts are needed before it takes shape and can be loaded in an aircraft or on a missile; it will have to be dressed in the proper uniform. As world experience has shown, these efforts will take two-three years.

But the important thing is that the device requires basically the same amount of plutonium as an operational—albeit not large—nuclear bomb. Given that, given the fact that the DPRK already had a device ready in 1990, and testing was only being prevented by certain external reasons, it means that the DPRK had, indeed has the requisite quantity of plutonium. Consequently, both our competent experts and the ambassador are lying. If, of course, you believe Kryuchkov's memorandum.

And I think it should be believed. Because despite the fact that relations between the USSR and the DPRK had been strained in recent years and North Korean special services were somewhat suspicious of their colleagues in the socialist camp, organized information channels were functioning. In the first place, because North Korean nuclear scientists would scarcely have managed without the assistance of Soviet nuclear experts and, second, because the DPRK was in the sphere of interests of a whole clutch of KGB departments. The "country of Chuche" was attracting the attention of both the intelligence service—the DPRK was covered by its 6th department—and the counterintelligence service—the document cited above was not prepared by Kryuchkov himself, of course, but by Colonel V.L. Smolnov, who worked in the 16th department of the Second Main Directorate (KGB counterintelligence). Finally, the former KGB also had an Eleventh Department—the department coordinating the activities of socialist countries' security services. It is now called the international relations service and is part of the Federal Counterintelligence Service Treaty and Law Administration. So despite all the strains in relations with the DPRK, our KGB knew how to arrange things with theirs: We even allowed North Korean special services to work on our territory—in labor settlements where there were North Korean workers.

The point of all this is to show that as well as the aforesaid document there must be other, later intelligence reports in KGB archives on DPRK successes in developing nuclear weapons.

At a State Duma sitting Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said that he had all the necessary information on the subject. At a meeting at ITAR-TASS Kozyrev expressed fears that North Korea might develop a nuclear bomb in the very near future. Although, according to other sources, what Kozyrev means by "in the very near future" is in five-seven years' time. But one would hope that the minister really does have all the requisite information, including the document I cited. If not (and in our country, given the shambles our archives are in, anything can happen), then I must hasten to report to the minister that in fall 1991 this memorandum by Kryuchkov was stored in the archives of the USSR KGB secretariat, file No. 132, volume four, page 143, marked "Top Secret" 07-07.

Finally, the games our competent experts are playing are fascinating in their way, of course. Unless, of course, you consider the possibility that a mad dictator might order North Korean nuclear bombs to start falling on our heads and if you forget that we are dealing with one of the most terrifying totalitarian regimes, which is desperately trying to survive, almost on its own, and is prepared—as our own history teaches us—to go to any lengths, even nuclear blackmail, to achieve that.

Do we not fear for our children?

Moscow Views Possible DPRK Sanctions as 'Extreme'

LD2306164394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Russia has not changed its point of view with respect to sanctions against North Korea, calling them an extreme and undesirable measure, declared Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov. At a briefing in Moscow Thursday he expressed his satisfaction that recently the tension around the sanctions "has slightly waned."

Panov drew attention to Russia's proposal to convene an international conference on the problems of the Korean peninsula. In particular, he pointed out that "the bilateral negotiations held between the United States and North Korea, North Korea and IEAE, and North Korea and South Korea were fruitless." "It would be more expedient for all interested parties to meet at a conference," said Panov.

Moscow proposes that at this conference the agenda include such problems as a guarantee of the Korean peninsula's non-nuclear status, normalization of relations between North Korea and the United States, North Korea and Japan, and North Korea and South Korea, and implementation of confidence measures between North Korea and South Korea.

Panov also underlined that Moscow proposes to convene an international conference of foreign ministers in Geneva within two weeks after adoption of a corresponding decision of the UN Security Council. Panov believes that in the future the conference may continue its work in Pyonyang and Seoul.

According to Panov, the United States has given its backing to the idea of the conference, China and Japan have also expressed a positive attitude towards this idea though they believe that "major attention should be attached to bilateral negotiations."

Responding to Interfax concerning the possibility of a revision of Russia's position with respect to the sanctions in the case that a conference prove fruitless, Panov said: "Let's try such a form of negotiations and then we shall think want to do next."

Zhirinovskiy To Visit DPRK 'Beginning of October'

LD2306200294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1833 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—A delegation from the Russian Liberal Democratic Party led by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is going to visit North Korea at the beginning of October at the invitation of North Korean President Kim Il-song, ITAR-TASS learned from sources close to the LDP leadership.

The visit will promote the development of contacts which were established during the visit to Pyongyang by LDP Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Vengerovskiy in April, 1994 on the occasion of Kim Il-song's 82d birthday, the same source said. In an interview given to ITAR-TASS during the visit Vengerovskiy stressed the intention "to maintain an active position as regards North Korea."

LDP sources said that during Zhirinovskiy's forthcoming visit an agreement on cooperation will possibly be signed. "We do not reject proposals to develop contacts," the same source said.

UNESCO Opens Mission in Moscow

LD2306112194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1102 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Polishchuk]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—A mission representing the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation opened its doors for work in the russian capital on Thursday. "Our dreams have become a reality," UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor announced at the opening ceremony of the bureau. "The opening of this mission became possible as a result of the desire and determination of the Russian Government and the UNESCO secretariat. It will permit the two sides to cooperate more quickly and effectively," he said.

"Russia now occupies a most-important place in world events," Mayor continued. "And our cooperation with it has developed wonderfully in the past several years. We have a bunch of joint initiatives, among which it would be worthwhile to note those projects concerning the Russian state library, the Bolshoy theatre, and the Hermitage," the director-general said.

"Our organisation's mission is first of all to preserve peace," Mayor declared. "Despite the fact that the Cold War is a thing of the past, our main goal on the eve of the XXI century is to abolish poverty and forever put an end to wars."

UNESCO Official Ends Visit

LD2306202494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1946 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—UNESCO Secretary General Federico Mayor has ended his visit to Russia today.

On the final day of the visit the UNESCO director general attended the opening ceremony of a UNESCO bureau in Moscow. Mayor pointed out that the opening of the UNESCO bureau became possible due to the desire expressed by the Russian Government and the UNESCO Secretariat to deepen mutually advantageous cooperation.

Mayor highly assessed talks he had in Moscow with the Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Chairman of the Russian Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko and Patriarch Aleksiy II, heads of the Russian Ministry for Science and Technical Politics, Culture and Education.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS Mayor said that during the talks the sides summed up the results of activities aimed at the realization of concrete projects included in a memorandum on cooperation between Russia and UNESCO. These projects envisage support to the Bolshoi Theatre, the Russian State Library and the Hermitage. The sides also discussed prospects for the development of cooperation in the field of communications, the organisation of international conferences, the reform of secondary education in Russia and the use of intellectual potential of Russian scientists.

According to Mayor, UNESCO has allocated half a million dollars to support various projects in Russia, predominantly connected with the support to research centers, special schools and a programme of studying the Russian language.

As a result of the talks agreements were reached to hold a second world congress on information science and education and establish an international department for human rights at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations.

During his visit Mayor met with representatives of intelligentsia, Russian mass media chiefs, the company of the Bolshoi Theater and students of the Moscow State University. The UNESCO secretary general also took part in the opening ceremony of an exhibition devoted to the famous French poet Arthur Rimbaud.

The UNESCO secretary general was awarded with an Order of People's Friendship for his outstanding contribution to the development of international cooperation. The award was conferred upon him by the Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the Kremlin.

Adamishin on Terrorist Acts Against Ethnic Russians

LD2306145894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1256 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Anatoliy Adamishin, Russia's first deputy Foreign Minister, told Interfax he does not rule out the possibility of the involvement of the Tajik opposition in the terrorist acts against Russian servicemen and ethnic Russians in Tajikistan.

He said, "there are many indications testifying to the opposition's involvement in these acts, although we lack conclusive proof."

"Using various channels, Russia has warned the leaders of the Tajik armed opposition about the threat of these methods. If we discover that the opposition is involved in these acts, our answer will be very severe," Adamishin said.

He stressed the fact that "Russia undertakes certain measures to bar the wave of terror. Combat patrolling has been introduced in places densely populated by ethnic Russians, and armed guard has been reinforced."

Adamishin does not rule out that the crimes committed in Tajikistan can affect the course of the inter-Tajik dialogue underway in Tajikistan. "Those who plan and accomplish these actions strive not only to provoke trouble inside Tajikistan but to attack the negotiation process between the government and the opposition," he said.

Adamishin expressed satisfaction with the fact that despite numerous difficulties inter-Tajik dialogue had been resumed. Russia, he said, had made a significant contribution to this process. "The major task of the Teheran round is to develop the results achieved at the negotiations in Moscow, namely to adopt the agreement on a cease-fire and hostilities along with several political measures inside Tajikistan as the opposition insists," he said.

Referring to the data presented by the Russian representatives at the negotiations in Teheran, Adamishin also said that the work on this agreement had been begun. "It is being carried out on the basis of the draft proposed by the U.N. envoy Ramiro Piriz-Ballon. The work is proceeding slowly, but there are some improvements. I'd like to hope that both Tajik parties would finally reach an agreement," he said.

Intervention in Rwanda Supported

LD2306144494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1355 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Boris Krivoshey]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jun—The sending to Rwanda of the multinational forces under French command does not fully meet the "classical" criteria for UN peace-keeping, but in conditions of the continuing tragedy it is a step that is necessary in order to stabilize the humanitarian situation in that country. This was stated at a briefing today by Grigoriy Karasin, director of the department of information and press of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

A few days ago the UN Security Council, he noted, adopted a decision on sending multinational forces to Rwanda. The core of these forces would be made up of a contingent of French troops. It is proposed that the French contingent will number about 2,000 men. All the expenses connected with carrying out this operation will be borne by the relevant countries.

Russia supported this UN Security Council resolution, considering that this decision is an enforced step but an essential one in the present circumstances. Here, we proceeded from the position that the human tragedy in Rwanda, which is unprecedented in its scale, and the continuing extermination of the civilian population of this long-suffering country dictates the necessity of adopting urgent and commensurate measures capable of halting further bloodshed in Rwanda. Moreover, we have taken account of the fact that the full deployment of additional UN forces will need quite a long period of time," Karasin said.

'Conditions' Warrant French Troops

LD2306194894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1829 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Boris Krivoshey]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—The despatch of a multinational force under French command does not fully conform to the "classic" criterion of U.N. peacemaking, but under the conditions of continued tragedy there it is a necessary step for stabilizing the humanitarian situation in that country, Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Information and Press Department in the Russian Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing today.

"Russia had supported this U.N. Security Council resolution, regarding that such a decision is an emergency, but a necessary measure under the present circumstances. We proceeded from the assumption that the unprecedented human tragedy in Rwanda, and the continued massacre of the civilian population in that long-suffering country dictates the need to take swift and adequate measures capable of stopping the further bloodshed in Rwanda. Besides this, we took into consideration the condition that sufficiently long period of time will be required for a full deployment of any additional U.N. force," Karasin said.

Foreign Ministry Unaware of New Israeli Proposals to Syria

LD2306172994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1707 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Tyssovski]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—The Russian foreign ministry knows nothing about possible Israeli proposals to Syria with the aim of finding a possible way out of the now suspended Israeli-Syrian peace talks, that is how Aleksandr Shein, a responsible official of the Near East and Africa department, commented upon the latest statements made by Israeli leaders on this issue, during a telephone talk with ITAR-TASS.

On Wednesday Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that certain quite interesting proposals have been made to the Syrians, in case they are accepted by Damascus, a breakthrough can be made in the Arab-Israeli negotiations within the peace process framework. The minister, however, did neither clarify the essence of those proposals nor named the channels through which they would be conveyed to the Syrian capital.

Nikolay Tikhomirov, deputy director of the Near East and Africa department, in this context noted Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement, who had said at a meeting with activists of international zionist movement in Jerusalem on Wednesday that Israel is not prepared to pay such a high "territorial price" for peace, which it paid during talks with Egypt, returning Cairo the whole occupied Sinai peninsula. Syria's position at the talks with Israel is well-known, Tikhomirov emphasised. Damascus is for an unconditional exchange of territory for peace. In other words, for compeletely returning the occupied Golan Heights and establishing peace between the two countries within the framework of a comprehensive settlement. It follows from the Syrian leadership's statements that they won't go in for anything less than this.

Spokesman Denies Aircraft Repairers in Yemen

LD2306194594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1828 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—A report about the alleged arrival of a Russian group of specialists from the "Sukhoi" aircraft design bureau in the Yemeni capital Sanaa at the beginning of June, which appeared in the Saudi Arabian newspaper "AL-SHARQ AL-ASWAT", does not conform to reality, Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Information and Press Department in the Russian Foreign Ministry, said here at a briefing today.

Really three officials of the aforesaid design bureau had arrived in Sanaa on May 3, that is before armed actions began in Yemen, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman noted. Their visit was aimed at holding talks about the repair of Russian made aircraft the Yemeni Army is equipped with. However, not getting any opportunity to complete that programme due to well-known events, they left for home on May 9, Karasin noted.

Regarding the tense situation prevailing in Yemen as a result of continued armed confrontation, Karasin emphasised, that Russia favours an earliest possible end to the fratricide, Karasin emphasised. He drew attention towards the necessity of unconditionally implementing the U.N. Security Assembly [as received] Resolution No. 924, which calls on all sides to immediately cease fire and return to the negotiating table to resolve differences for the sake of restoring peace and stability. According to Karasin, any mediation efforts undertaken for the search of a way out of the fratricidal conflict in Yemen are supported in Moscow.

Primakov on N. African Tour, Meets With 'Arafat

LD2306135494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1247 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By CRIME-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—The director of Russia's External Intelligence Service (EIS), Yevgeniy Primakov, is already several days into an unofficial tour of North Africa, ITAR-TASS learned in the EIS press bureau. The EIS representative reported that Primakov had met with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis, and had also had a series of conversations with other political figures in various countries.

While the EIS director's tour is unofficial, his peacekeeping mission seems to be fully official. One of the most important questions discussed by Primakov during his meetings was the Middle East peace process. Primakov was assigned the job of talking to leaders in the troubled area not so much due to his position as EIS chief, but because he is one of Russia's top Middle East experts.

At the end of this week, Primakov is expected to return to Moscow.

Moscow Backs Akayev Edict on Russian Emigration

LD2306184394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1329 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Boris Krivoshey]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jun—The edict of President Askar Akayev, which is aimed at reducing the emigration of the

Russian-speaking population from the Republic of Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan], will undoubtedly further strengthen all-round ties between Russia and Kyrgyzstan. This was stated today at a briefing by Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Department of Information and Press of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The measures envisaged in this edict," he noted, "meet the objective demands of an extensive part of the population of Kyrgyzstan half way, are a step in the development of democracy, boosting the main rights and freedoms of the country's citizens, they take into account the wishes expressed by the Russian side with regard to this issue, including on a summit level."

The representative of Russia's foreign policy department has also expressed the hope that the drafts for the relevant laws that have been submitted to the Kyrgyz Supreme Council will be approved and the government will take effective practical measures to enforce out the president's edict.

Adamshin Criticizes Latvian Citizenship Decree

LD2306144894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1256 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin called the decree on citizenship adopted recently in Latvia "an unprecedented act for modern Europe."

"This decree is of a clearly discriminating nature, primarily with respect to Latvia's Russian population. It precisely reflects the aim of creating a mono-ethnic state in Latvia and gives precedence to the political interests of the present ruling elite at the expense of human rights," Adamishin said. He described the move as "playing with fire."

He said he was displeased with the West's reaction, which he described as "feeble." "One can imagine what a fuss would have been made if this had taken place in the former USSR," he said.

He also said that U.S. President Bill Clinton, who is scheduled to visit Riga on July 6, could find himself "in a rather delicate position." "By his visit Clinton will be forced to bless this Latvian decree and its provisions which are discriminating with respect to several hundreds of thousands people, about 30 percent of Latvia's population," he said.

Adamishin underlined that Russia would protest to international organizations, address parliamentarians, etc. "There should be no doubts that such attitude towards human rights cannot but affect bilateral Russian-Latvian relations. - he concluded [no end quotation marks as received].

Unilateral Marking of Border With Estonia 'Forced Measure'

LD2306141394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1325 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Boris Krivoshey]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jun—Russia's unilateral demarcation of its border with Estonia is a forced measure. This was stated by Grigoriy Karasin, the director of the information and press department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, at a briefing today in connection with President Boris Yeltsin's edict to carry out measures to mark Russia's state border on its Estonian section before the Russian-Estonian treaty on the border is concluded.

The edict by the Russian president, he noted, is aimed at creating conditions for applying the law on the border and defending Russia's political and economic interests. The lack of a physical marking of Russia's state border impedes the application of Russian legislative acts that deal with halting and punishing violations of the border and with the unsanctioned movement of various raw materials, including smuggling, across it, the Foreign Ministry representative said.

The marking by the Russian side of the border, which already exists, does not contradict either the Helsinki Final Act, or the treaty on the fundamentals of inter-state relations between Russia and Estonia of 1991, Karasin stressed. He also expressed the hope that at the talks between the state delegations on border issues the Estonian side will occupy a more constructive position, which would open the way to concluding a treaty on the Russian-Estonian border.

Agreement Reached With Japan on Nuclear Waste Plant

OW2306135994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1258 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Vladivostok, Russia, June 23 KYODO—Russia and Japan inked an agreement Thursday [23 June] to build a disposal plant for liquid nuclear waste near Vladivostok in the Russian far east, Japanese officials said.

Both sides agreed to put up the construction of the plant for international bidding. The facility, which will filter radioactive substances from the liquid waste, is expected to be completed within this year.

In the coming years Russia will dismantle some 60 nuclear submarines. Several storage ships including a 2,000-ton tanker fully loaded with nuclear waste are currently mooring off Vladivostok.

The hazardous cargo could pose a serious threat to the environment as most of the vessels are worn out, although no leakage has so far been reported.

For lack of storage and treatment facilities, the former Soviet Union and Russia have dumped thousands of tons of nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan and other waters off its coast.

The disclosure of the decades-long nuclear dumping has sparked international protests and calls for a rapid solution to the storage crisis.

Tokyo said earlier this month the plant will be funded from a 70 million dollar Japanese grant for the dismantling of Russian nuclear weapons and nuclear waste disposal.

World Bank Grants $820 Million Credit To Government

LD2306201494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1933 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin, Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Washington June 23 TASS—The World Bank will provide Russia four credits totalling 820 million U.S. dollars. This is the main outcome of the talks held between Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and World Bank President Lewis Preston on Wednesday evening. The agreements on providing these credits were signed by Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin and World Bank Vice-President Wilfried Thalwitz.

Two of these credits are meant for assisting the development of Russia's agriculture sector. These are credits to support reforms in agriculture (240 million dollars) and to support land reform (80 million dollars). The third credit will be provided by the bank for restoring roads (300 million dollars), and the fourth for the development of financial institutions (200 million dollars).

After the signing ceremony of the agreements, Viktor Chernomyrdin said that Russia plans to create a special federal organization which will work with international financial institutions. "We requested the World Bank to put pressure on countries who are Russia's debtors," he said. "Finally, one more important result of the talks was that the World Bank president will pay a visit to Moscow," the Russian prime minister said.

U.S. Accused of Double Standard on Pakistan

PM2306111194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 3

[Commentary by Mark Aleksandrov: "In the Vicious Circle Which Could Lead to a Nuclear Arms Race"]

[Excerpts] Against the background of the vociferous campaign in the Western mass media over the DPRK's secession from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], reports of the reluctance of India and Pakistan to accede to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty have been overshadowed. Indeed, the press in general devotes little attention to the problem of the possible possession of nuclear weapons by these states. And yet it has a very serious character. [passage omitted]

Fears are now increasing all the time in the world that nuclear weapons could be launched in this region, since relations between India and Pakistan are extremely tense, and several times have deteriorated to the point of open military operations. But both these states are ostentatiously disregarding the opinion of other countries. Pakistan will not renounce its "nuclear option" until all vexed questions with India are settled, including the problem of Kashmir, Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali stated in a speech to parliament. He ruled out the possibility of a compromise with the United States on the nuclear question; the latter is offering to supply Islamabad with 38 F-16 fighter bombers in exchange for winding down its nuclear program. The minister also stated that his country will not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty until Delhi agrees to accede to this international document.

As for India, it is giving extremely contradictory signals. First Delhi claims that nuclear weapons arsenals must be destroyed worldwide, then it says that it reserves the right to choose whether to develop its own nuclear bomb or not. At the same time, it refuses to talk about signing up to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, declaring it "discriminatory."

Thus a kind of vicious circle is arising. Both Pakistan and India are continuing their research programs, with all the latent danger of a nuclear arms race and the danger of the use of those weapons. And no arguments have any effect on either country.

There are many factors here. The principal ones, of course, are the failure to resolve the numerous and long-standing problems in Indo-Pakistani relations. But perhaps not the least role here is played by the double standards practiced by so influential a state as the United States with regard to countries which refuse to submit to the international nuclear nonproliferation regime. Whereas, for instance, the DPRK is being subjected to real ostracism, only reproaches or expressions of regret are leveled at Pakistan.

Next year an international conference is due to be held with a view to extending the term of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. It is expected that the treaty will become indefinite and universal, that is to say, if not all the states in the world, then the overwhelming majority will be participants in the treaty. And it goes without saying that the requirements on all countries, whether the DPRK or Iraq, Israel or Japan, India or Pakistan, should be the same. All mankind is vitally interested in such a solution to the nonproliferation problem.

Political Issues

Kremlin Source: Yeltsin May Seek Extension of Term

LD2406143394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1348 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] A high-placed source in the Moscow Kremlin told Interfax President Yeltsin could call a nationwide referendum in the hope of having his term in office extended. Addressing Vladimir Shumeyko's suggestion for an extension, for another two years, of both the president's and parliament's mandates, the anonymous source said Yeltsin stood the best chance to win presidential elections in 1996 and would be unlikely to allow the State Duma and Federation Council decide how long he was to stay in office.

But, the source admitted that Shumeyko's initiative was logical and made sense. It would allow the mostly newcomer politicians to learn what was what and concentrate on law-making.

The source said Shumeyko's initiative was a touchstone and the Administration's response to it would depend on whether it was endorsed by the lawmakers, leading political parties and movements and other influential forces.

Kostikov, Filatov on Shumeyko Election Proposal

MK2406083594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 24 Jun 94 p 2

[Aleksey Kirpichnikov report under the "Elections" rubric: "Shumeyko's Idea May Belong to Burbulis. Discussion of Upper Chamber Speaker's Initiatives Continues"]

[Text] The country's news agencies are churning out reactions to the two most important current events: the soccer world cup and Vladimir Shumeyko's initiative on postponing the new elections for both Federal Council chambers.

Presidential Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov regards the proposal of the head of the upper chamber as dangerous because the unconstructive opposition may take advantage of the current debates to upset the hard-won stability. Mr. Filatov admitted a total lack of knowledge of Mr. Shumeyko's intentions. He added that having asked the latter why so sudden a proposal, he was told that the Federation Council chairman "wanted to see society's reaction."

Georgiy Satarov, a man who stands even closer to the president, described the initiative as logical because a postponement of the elections will permit the deputies to concentrate on making laws and have a favorable effect on society.

The best informed of all, which is as it should be, was the president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov. He pointed out that the idea had long been brewing and the first man to share it with him was not Vladimir Shumeyko or Mikhail Poltoranin but Gennadiy Burbulis. Thus, Mr. Shumeyko only had to "air" the eminent politician's plan.

Mr. Kostikov described the idea as "interesting, albeit not indisputable." The press secretary believed that the impending elections for the Federal Assembly threaten a sharpening of differences in society which plays into the hands of "impatient politicians." The press secretary's "interest" is also prompted by a possible linkage between the extension of the deputies' terms (naturally, for "preserving the political equilibrium") and a postponement of the presidential elections.

Mr. Kostikov made a guess about his boss' reaction to Mr. Shumeyko's initiative. The president, the press secretary believes, will refrain from public assessments in the near future because he values social accord. Mr. Kostikov suggested that the top speaker's initiative be submitted to expert assessment and discussion by political parties and movements, society, and the mass media. Only after the aggregate opinion is known would Boris Yeltsin voice his attitude because he is "the president of all people of Russia," far from political time-serving, Mr. Kostikov underscored.

Finally, as Mr. Satarov pointed out, Boris Yeltsin is prepared to back the idea of extending the deputies' powers on condition they demonstrate productive work. However, unlike what Mr. Kostikov proposed, he is categorically against moving back the presidential elections.

What is "the president of all people of Russia" going to say when political parties, movements, society, and the media come to him as the boyars did to Ivan IV petitioning him not to abdicate?

Rybkin Denies Supporting Shumeyko on Deputies' Powers

LD2206202094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1734 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow, 22 June—In an interview for the "Details" program on Russian television this evening Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko said that "he had spoken about" the question of extending the powers of deputies "a month and a half ago with both the president and with State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin." "We came to an understanding on this question, and in principal there were no objections either from the president or from the State Duma chairman," he said.

"Two years is a very short time for deputies to 'get into' normal legislative work," was how Vladimir Shumeyko explained his position.

For his part, State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin in fact denied Vladimir Shumeyko's statement that the State

Duma chairman had agreed with his proposal. In an interview with "Details" he said that the extension of the powers "should still be put to the people." "I think the Russian electorate thinks differently, and perhaps one ought to move toward re-election next year," he said. In his opinion, "considering the people's bitter experience, people of a quite different direction could be elected."

"It is possible to extend powers in a stable situation when the policy of those who carried it out has been fully justified," believes Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of Russia's communists. "In the present situation, when the policy has become completely bankrupt, when the socioeconomic situation reminds one more and more of genocide and catastrophe, and when the spiritual disintegration of society has reached an unprecedented level, the question of changing course and changing those who are in charge has not only ripened but has overripened," he told a correspondent with the "Details" program.

Deputy Urges Adhering to Constitutional Election Dates

MK2306092094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 2

[Article by Vyacheslav Nikonov, deputy of the Russian Federation State Duma, under the "Carte Blanche" rubric: "A Hereditary Party. Why Are We Increasingly Hearing About Delaying Presidential and Parliamentary Elections?"]

[Text] Efforts are afoot to gradually condition us to the fact that the next presidential and parliamentary elections will not take place at the time established by the Constitution. Rumors, inspired "leaks" followed by direct statements on this count, and many other things point to a decreasing possibility of the voters electing a new Duma at the end of 1995 and voting for a new, or old, president in June 1996.

Hints are coming from circles close to the head of state's entourage about the possibility of prolonging the Federal Assembly's brief, two-year, existence for another couple of years in exchange for an analogous extension of the incumbent president's powers. In the Duma such a deal, relieving the deputies of the headache caused by the need to face fresh elections, finds increasing understanding. An appeal recently circulated by the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction contains the following number one point: "Given the absence of normal conditions for lawmaking activity by the Duma and the deputies in working with their constituents, the term of its present composition should be extended by two years."

Thank God, so far the LDPR does not set the procedures for forming state power bodies, but it is clear that a drive toward destroying the corresponding constitutional provisions has begun.

Even now it is clear which arguments are being made and will yet be made in support of this idea. Many words will be spoken about the vital need for stability and continuity of power, which were secured at such pains in the Social Accord Pact. About the impermissibility of jeopardizing democratic transformations embodied by President Boris Yeltsin. About the need for more time for the main power branches to adapt and begin real work to adopt the legislative enactments that are so important to Russia. And finally, historical arguments will be cited to confirm that the prolonged existence of state leadership in unchanged form fully corresponds to the domestic political tradition.

I cannot say that the above-mentioned arguments have no political or logical rationale. Nonetheless I am sure: To follow this path is not in the country's interests. And not because the intention is primarily to keep in power those who already have it.

Continuity and efficiency of state institutions and the need for their adaptation should have been considered earlier, when the current Constitution was being written and adopted. Now, for all its imperfections, it—and not individual personalities—is the guarantor of social and political stability. What undermines the state's buttresses and hinders consolidation of the democratic tradition is violations of the Constitution, increasingly committed by top officials.

I shall venture to state my confidence that Russia will emerge as a democratic and civilized state only when a constitutional change of supreme ruling authority takes place in the country for the first time in its more than millennium-old history.

I stress: constitutional, not merely apparently legitimate, as has been the case in the previous decades and centuries.

Before 1917, there was no constitution to speak of, and therefore there could be no question of the handover of power. Continuity was ensured through heredity, and this was called monarchy. After the Revolution there were many fundamental laws but none of them stipulated a mechanism for such a handover, while the supreme ruling authority itself was for the most part unconstitutional. The removal of Mikhail Gorbachev from the helm also, as is known, had nothing to do with the Constitution—the Union or the Russian one—and brought about the destruction of the USSR.

The democratically elected legislative bodies have also been unlucky. Out of four pre-Revolutionary Dumas, three were disbanded. Neither the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, nor the Congress and Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation of the previous convocation died a natural, that is to say constitutional, death. And the birth of the present Federal Assembly was never based on the Law.

One conclusion follows from all this: Presidential and Federal Assembly elections should take place when they are supposed to. Only in this event shall we be citizens of a democratic country, not an eastern despotic regime with some democratic embellishments. If there are no elections, it will be a short way to hereditary presidency and deputyship.

Some may dislike this. But not myself or my colleagues in the Duma PRES [Party of Russian Unity and Accord] faction.

Shumeyko, Rybkin Interviewed on Elections

LD2206182694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1531 GMT 22 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Presidential aide Georgiy Satarov has said the idea of extending the tenure of office of both parliament and president, proposed by the speaker of the upper house - the Council of the Federation - Vladimir Shumeyko is not new.

Satarov told IF [Interfax] Wednesday morning that back a month ago, when President Yeltsin met with the group of State Duma members called the "December 12 Liberal-Democratic Union", State Duma member Irina Khakamada asked Yeltsin about his attitude to the idea of extending parliament. Satarov said the President replied he was not against that "on the condition the State Duma and the Council of the Federation proved effective".

That idea has been discussed as a possibility in professional circles for a long time", Satarov said.

The presidential aide said that when I. Khakamada asked the President about the idea of prolonging his own term of office, Yeltsin replied: "Don't touch the 1996 elections, please". Satarov said he would not comment on the President's statement.

The presidential aide believes that if the idea of extending powers gains the upper hand, amendments to the current Constitution will most probably be made through a referendum. "However, the subject of holding the referendum will remain open until both houses of parliament have approved of a law on the referendum", Satarov said.

In an exclusive interview granted to Interfax on Tuesday Shumeyko said it would be expedient to postpone both presidential and parliamentary elections for two years. The speaker of the upper house said he had discussed that with the President, who, Shumeyko said "does not object in principle to prolonging his tenure of office". "He (Yeltsin) sees this as a normal way out, because what the country needs today is a period of stability", Shumeyko said.

According to Shumeyko the speaker of the lower house, the State Duma Ivan Rybkin is for that proposal, too.

"Members of parliament are politicians", the speaker said. "Once a person becomes a politician, he must decide whether to go on with his or her political career. If politicians know their term is about to expire, they will keep the forthcoming elections in mind whenever they walk to the speaking stand. We should be concerned about different things now, about the state. We have put Russia on the track of reform and the first stage of reform ended on December 12 1993. Now we must take care of fostering the state".

Shumeyko recalled that the Constitution had established a four-year term for both houses of the Federal Assembly, whereas the first Council of the Federation and State Duma were elected for a transitional period of two years. "Why should there be a transitional period of two years, and not four?" Shumeyko asked. He believes it would be enough to amend the second section of the constitution ("Final and Transitional Provisions") to double the term of the first parliament.

Shumeyko said the first two chapters of the Constitution could be altered in no way other than calling a referendum, whereas the others could be amended by parliament. "The Constitution does not specify how the second section can be changed", the speaker of the upper house said. "Since nothing definite is stated, the legal practice requires the general procedure, that is a referendum. The referendum would be far less costly than new elections".

Shumeyko said that if the first Federal Assembly were extended alongside the presidential term (1996 elections would then be canceled), the period of stability in Russia may last 2-3 years.

The speaker of the lower house of the Russian parliament told IF on Wednesday one should be very cautious about the idea of extending the powers of parliament. "We've got to show the people we are worthy of the extension", Rybkin said.

The State Duma Speaker said neither house of the Federal Assembly was as efficient as necessary yet. He said that the country still had no budget and "some politickers seek to capitalize on that". Rybkin said he was referring to those who had earlier worked in the government and then took senior posts in both houses of parliament.

Rybkin even ventured the guess it would be reasonable to re-elect parliament as early as next year "The people, aware of their bitter experiences, would elect totally new people", he said.

Interviewed by IF earlier, Rybkin said the idea of extending parliament and the president would be realistic under three conditions: "if the economy develops signs of stabilization within the next two or three months; if an appropriate legal network is formed, and if both houses of the Federal Assembly prove efficient". "These pre-requisites seem to be in the making and the march of events looks constructive", Rybkin said. He added he would be happy about the extension of both parliament and the president provided all the mentioned conditions were met.

Counterintelligence Chief Supports Edict on Crime

LD2306150194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1428 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service Sergei Stepashin voiced his support for the presidential decree on urgent measures to combat organized crime.

Addressing the Collegium of the Prosecutor-General's Office on Thursday, he said that without going into legal assessments of the methods of implementing the presidential decree, he fully supported the political decision to pass it.

He said that the problem lay in the fact that foreign special services are trying to penetrate into Russian criminal structures, establish control over them and use them to the detriment of Russian interests. He also pointed out that making use of the undefined status of Russian state borders, the national security services of the Baltic states and other republics "have established contacts with Russian criminals for intelligence purposes.

He said that a joint directive would be sent to the Russian power ministries' territorial bodies in which the disputed provisions of the decree will be brought into line with current laws.

He announced that the Russian president was considering a draft decree on the restoration of the investigation department in the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service. According to his sources, the decree will be signed soon.

Acting Prosecutor Supports Anticrime Edict

LD2306145994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1427 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Acting Prosecutor-General Aleksey Ilyushenko supports the presidential decree on urgent measures to protect the population from banditry and organized crime.

Now that armed and organized criminals are brazenly trying to establish their rules in the country and unleash terror, curbing organized crime is becoming a task of the greatest importance, he told the Collegium of the Prosecutor-General's Office on Thursday.

"In fact, we are faced with the question of who will bring down whom to their knees: the state the mafia, or the mafia the state," he said. He demanded that the task of combating crime and coordinating the work of the law-enforcement bodies be given priority attention.

He said the emergency measures, set forth in the decree, did not at all imply the neglect of the constitution or the law. On the basis of the available opportunities the state must curb the criminals and apply the new laws to them in all their strictness, he said.

"We are well aware of the real possibilities of criminal reprisals and do not consider them a panacea in our struggle against crime. However, in the current setting, the punitive power of the law must be used fully and without hesitation," said Ilyushenko.

He said he could understand society's concern about possible malpractices during the implementation of the decree and admitted that the law-enforcement bodies had violated the laws in many instances lately, acting in an arbitrary way.

He said that the measures proposed in the decree were aimed at attaining a real breakthrough in the struggle against crime, not at violating human rights, and that the main gaol of the decree was to protect the citizens from organized terror.

He proposed ensuring strict control over the observance of laws during the implementation of the presidential decree.

According to his sources, compared to 1989 the crime rate has more than doubled in Russia. A total of 2.8 million crimes, including 500,000 serious ones, were committed in 1993. Among them were 30,000 premeditated murders, 67,000 serious injuries and more than 220,000 robberies. Over the first five months of 1994, 1.94 million crimes were committed, including 216,000 serious crimes, said Ilyushenko.

Conference Participants Differ on Crime Edict

LD2306140594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1340 GMT 23 Jun 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Correspondent T. Aldoshina] Acting procurator-general Aleksandr Ilyushenko said today that by using criminal terrorist methods, the criminal formations operating on Russian territory have essentially taken over the streets, towns, and populated localities.

[Ilyushenko] Their barefaced insolence and impunity are creating an atmosphere of fear and helplessness in society.

[Aldoshina] Over the first five months of this year, 1,094,000 crimes were registered, 216,000 of them serious crimes. In the view of participants in the extended sitting of the procuracy's collegium, the federal program for combatting crime and the president's edict on protecting the population from gang violence should put an end to organized crime. However, the document is controversial.

[I. Kostoyev, chairman of the Federation Council's Committee for Constitutional Legislation] It is quite clear that the president's edict contradicts the constitution and a number of federal laws.

[Aldoshina] Issa Kostoyev believes, however, that the actual state of affairs must be borne in mind and, given the outburst of gang violence, that the edict should be used as an interim legal enactment. Those assembled in the hall believe that it is now a question of who will bring whom down first, the state or the mafia? And the law enforcement bodies intend to demonstrate their strength whatever happens.

[Sergey Stepashin, director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service] I am in favor of the violation of human rights, if the person involved is a bandit and criminal. There can be no alternative here.

[Aldoshina] The only person who objected to this stance was Sergey Kovalev.

[Sergey Kovalev, chairman of the Russian Federation President's Human Rights Commission] Human rights exist. If you are in favor of violation of the rights of the criminal, you are in favor of the violation of human rights. This axiom is known worldwide.

[Aldoshina] As the acting procurator-general explained today, only the Constitutional Court can revoke the president's edict. However, the participants in the procuracy collegium are fully determined to use this document to bring the full punitive force of the law to bear and achieve a real breakthrough in the crime situation.

Deputy Interior Minister on Fighting Organized Crime

LD2406133894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] The decree on fighting organized crime, signed by President Yeltsin last week, is in the center of the media's attention and provokes tough discussions between the supporters and opponents of the tough measures stated by Yeltsin. Today Mikhail Yegorov, deputy interior minister and head of the department for fighting organized crime, met journalists. Andrey Zenkov reports:

[Zenkov] The existence of organized crime in Russia was recognized officially by the top militia authorities relatively recently. Having recognized it, they started to actively show journalists documentaries of chases and exchanges of fire that ended happily bandits being detained, just as in American gangster movies. The fact that over half of these bandits are released after 48 hours and godfathers do not even figure in cases is not the fault of militia, but of out-of-date legislation.

[Begin Yegorov recording] We keep on repeating again and again: Give us the opportunity to make examinations prior to instituting proceedings and to carry out checks of documents. Let us work with those detained. We need to stop releasing the leaders of organized criminal groups and their members on bail, since they have lots of money. Incidentally, we need to gather evidence. It is difficult to gather evidence in two days. The posession of weapons, be it a nuclear bomb or a pistol—our law is far from being perfect in this respect—attracts roughly the same punishment. Nineteen and a half percent of those detained under Articles 218-219 are sentenced to imprisonment. The rest leave to re-commit crimes. [end recording]

Mikhail Yegorov, one of the authors of Yeltsin's famous draft decree on fighting crime, stressed again that measures that are tough from the point of view of human rights, including the audit of accounts of the relatives of those under scrutiny, will be used only when fighting organized crime, which is responsible for up to 1,500 crimes committed in Russia daily.

Official Claims Many Enterprises Controlled by Mafia

LD2406133294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1053 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Isa Kostoyev, Chairman of the Federation Council Committee on constitutional legislature and legal issues, declared to Interfax Friday that there is official statistical data in the Interior Ministry and Federal Counterintelligence Service stating that many Russian state enterprises are under the control of mafia structures.

"There are thousands of criminal trials carried out due to this fact. For example, the products of industrial enterprises in many regions is quite competitive with imported goods brought by commercial structures and criminal elements urge that these enterprises export their production outside the region. A director is forced to obey because he does not want to subject his own life and his family to danger."

"Not to speak about those commercial enterprises which cannot make a single move without the knowledge of the mafia," Kostoyev added. "I know that in the Western world the mafia also exerts certain pressure, but it does not touch upon state enterprises. We have already left the West far behind in this sphere, he pointed out. Given the current situation it is necessary to use emergency measures to combat organized crime but it should be done in the frameworks of precise laws so that innocent people do not suffer," Kostoyev said.

Human Rights Watchdog Protests Crime Edict

PM2406101594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jun 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Sergey Kovalev Considers President's Edict Dangerous"]

[Text] S. Kovalev, chairman of the Russian Federation president's Human Rights Commission, has sent a letter to B. Yeltsin regarding his edict "On Urgent Measures To Protect the Population From Banditry and Other Manifestations of Organized Crime."

It is obvious to us, S. Kovalev writes, that it is necessary to step up the fight against crime, the growth in which is naturally of concern to all sectors of Russian society. The work of law-enforcement organs, which are meant to conduct this fight within the framework of existing legislation, needs radical improvement. Needless to say, the possibility of improving their work is not ruled out.

The tragic experience of Russia, S. Kovalev stressed, shows that citizens' safety cannot be protected by violating the basic rights and freedoms enshrined in Chapter 2 of the Russian Constitution. It is no accident that Articles 64 and 135 of the Constitution envisage a special procedure for making changes to this chapter.

The conflicts with the norms of existing criminal procedural legislation and the legally vague formulas used in the edict create a possibility of its being interpreted as broadly as people like, S. Kovalev believes, and he voices the fear that implementation of the edict would be accompanied by arbitrary actions by law-enforcement departments—unjustified arrests, interference in citizens' private and economic activities, and a growth in corruption among officials. This, in particular, is confirmed by reports from the Republic of Bashkortostan and Tatarstan, where similar acts of legislation are already in force.

Under the Constitution, the letter goes on to say, you, as Russian president, are the guarantor of the rights and freedoms of the individual and the citizen. We are confident that you do not share the concept espoused by certain leaders of power structures who think that the rights of some citizens can be protected by violating the rights of others. This approach shows that we have still not learned the lessons of our own past.

The edict you have signed is also dangerous because, by pursuing short-term political advantage, it essentially undermines respect for the law and faith in the stability of the recently adopted Constitution.

The letter concludes with a request from the Human Rights Commission for B. Yeltsin to suspend Edict No. 1226 of 14 June 1994.

Human Rights Center Chief Interviewed

PM2406132994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 24 Jun 94 p 2

[Interview with Aleksey Smirnov, director of the Moscow research center for human rights, by correspondent Dmitriy Orlov; date and place of interview not stated: "Demand that Official 'Play by the Rules'"]

[Text] The Moscow research center for human rights is an association of independent human rights organizations (the Moscow group for promoting the fulfillment of the Helsinki agreements, the "movement without frontiers" group, the public center for promoting the reform of criminal law, the committee of soldiers' mothers, the independent psychiatric association, the society for the protection of convicted economic leaders and for economic freedoms, and others). The center's public council includes Ye. Bonner, B. Zolotukhin, S. Kovalev, and A. Pristavkin. The problems which exist today in the field of the protection of human rights are described by Aleksey Smirnov, the center's director, in a talk with ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent Dmitriy Orlov.

[Orlov] Aleksey Olegovich, what in your view is above all preventing the assertion in Russia of international norms for the protection of human rights?

[Smirnov] Primarily the fact that in the law enforcement organs and structures of power there are still people working who have not borne any responsibility for law violations and crimes committed in the past. "That is what it was like then" is a typical empty refrain of the workers of the former KGB. A mass of evidence of crimes by the authorities has been accumulated. I believe that a decision should be made to repeal the statute of limitations with regard to the communist regime's crimes against the individual. Can we speak of law today if past crimes are unpunished?

[Orlov] Does that mean you are in favor of opening and inspecting correspondence?

[Smirnov] Yes, if this is understood not as sweeping dismissals of state employees but as a careful study of each specific case, exclusively, of course, within the framework of existing legal procedure.

Proving crimes committed in the past and even initiating criminal proceedings is hard work.

Today there is not a single precedent for punishing KGB staffers. Yet the KGB tortured Sakharov before my very eyes! Many people died in the camps. Where are the culprits? Still in power? Still deciding our lives? I shall cite a personal example. The investigator who was in charge of my case during the years of stagnation has falsified the interrogation records. I can prove this because I kept parallel records and recorded violations of the law. What were violated were not the USSR's international commitments but the criminal procedure norms in operation at the time—at the time! How did the Moscow prosecutor's office reply to me? There are few investigators and many difficulties and the worker in charge of your case resigned, and it was a long time ago....

[Orlov] Can you note instances of the most flagrant violations of human rights in Russia relatively recently?

[Smirnov] Of course. The most graphic of them is the regime introduced by the Moscow City Hall for registering incomers. I like Mayor Luzhkov as a person: He is a practical person who does not stop to think and makes decisions swiftly. But the decision on administrative banishment.... It is clear how it could be carried out (and is now being carried out): According to the principle that you can't make an omelet without breaking eggs. In my view when applying preventive measures of this kind in the struggle against crime, powerful mechanisms must be created for monitoring the militia's actions. And unless the Moscow City Hall does this, our center will receive complaints of violations of human rights in this field and render legal aid to victims, including by dispatching materials to the prosecutor's office and court. I nonetheless hope that in the very near future Mayor Luzhkov will create organs for monitoring the actions of the Moscow law enforcement organs within the framework of the registration regime.

[Orlov] How effective is your center's activity? Can you help many people?

[Smirnov] In one day the organizations belonging to the center receive up to 100 people. In simplified terms 50 of them are simply people who do not properly understand what is happening, 25 percent are not in the right place (as a rule they are interested in socioeconomic problems), and only with regard to the remaining quarter do we take any actions. We manage to help nearly half of these.

In general we are obliged to work constantly in practical human rights activity. There is virtually no time left for lobbying in the organs of executive power, educational projects, or legislative initiatives on human rights issues. Yet essentially the system of "giving charity to every poor person" is not effective—we must create conditions such that he does not have to ask for it.

[Orlov] A specific question. Recently the organs of state power and the mass media and in particular our publication have been receiving requests to expand the system of benefits for those repressed under the bolshevik regime. What is your attitude toward such appeals?

[Smirnov] We often get them too. It seems to me that increasing monetary grants and giving food and so forth on the basis of lists is not very fair to other citizens of the country, to taxpayers! No monetary compensations! We must not "give" or "take." For former political prisoners it would be far more useful to be relieved of taxes and municipal charges.

[Orlov] What general recommendations could you give to those citizens who do not want to become victims of the violation of their rights?

[Smirnov] The main thing is to know the law and the procedures for protecting your own rights. You must appeal to legal advice bureaus. You must learn to work with the authorities, not to set yourself against a particular zealous official but to demand toughly that he "play by the rules."

Systematic violations of human rights today come not "from above," as in 1970-1980, but "from below," from the local authorities. We can and must fight that.

Yavlinskiy Accuses Yeltsin of Undemocratic Rule

LD2306124894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0635 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—"There have not been any profound reforms in Russia. What has happened here is perestroyka of the purest kind," the leader of the "Yabloko" group in the State Duma, the well-known economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, claims. For most people in the country "things are exactly the same as they were before," he writes in an article published in the latest issue of the weekly MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI. "The most important elements of the old Soviet way of organizing socio-economic affairs still exist and operate here. The monopolies and the former structures of production remain unchanged. There is no real private ownership or competition. Land reform is not being carried out. Democratic procedures for public accountability have not been worked out. A system of local self-government has not been established. There is no real separation of powers."

People are now talking about stabilization, but stabilization of "such a system is not a blessing," the deputy warns. "This signifies that Russia continues to be an oligarchical and super-monopolized state. All that's changed is the 'political superstructure'," Yavlinskiy says. "The CPSU has gone, but it has been replaced by strong criminal influence on government."

"It is impossible to run such a system by normal democratic methods," Yavlinskiy warns. "In the Soviet era Politburo decisions were the most effective instrument of government. Taken by a small group of people, without public discussion, without adherence to democratic 'conditionality', their implementation was mandatory. Unfortunately, the latest edicts issued by the president are very reminiscent of those decisions." "The main danger is that undemocratic, unlawful and even unconstitutional methods of administration are being openly resorted to," he believes.

He says that "the culmination of this deviation from previously proclaimed principles was the edict on 'Urgent Measures To Protect the Public Against Gangsterism and Other Manifestations of Organized Crime'. This edict violates virtually everything that can be violated: human rights, a number of federal laws, the constitution itself. The whole country can see that not only the 'spirit of the law' but its actual 'letter' is being contravened. Furthermore it is being contravened by the sole guarantor of the constitution - the president."

Zhirinovskiy Threatens To Leave Social Accord Treaty

LD2406104194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1030 GMT 24 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow June 24 TASS—The leadership of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) examines the issue of withdrawing from the Public Accord Treaty, LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy told a news conference at the Russian parliament lower house on Friday.

According to Zhirinovskiy, the LDPR is forced to do this "by the present course of the Russian leadership" which "does not justify the hopes" of Liberal Democrats for resolving problems facing the country.

Speaking about policy towards former Soviet republics and other foreign countries, Zhirinovskiy called for closing down some sections of the state border and for expelling from Russia those who have no entry visas. He demanded that Russian troops be pulled out of all "flash points".

"No contacts with NATO and no joint war games," thundered the LDPR leader.

Turning to domestic problems, he favoured an immediate suspension of "privatisation a la Chubays". Zhirinovskiy said that the LDPR parliamentary group did not vote on Friday for the 1994 federal budget which, in the group's opinion, is "an anti-social budget".

Zhirinovskiy disfavoured proposals on extending powers of the president and parliament. "We cannot adopt this version," the LDPR leader said at the lower house, giving, however, no explanations why his group favours this position.

Aide Alleges Zhirinovskiy Assasination Plan

AU2406105794 Paris AFP in English 1036 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow, June 24 (AFP)—Russia's secret service is planning to assassinate ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, an aide claimed Friday.

Sergei Abelsev, a member of Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party, told reporters that according to information he had gathered "the secret service is preparing an attack against Zhirinovskiy."

Speaking at the same news conference, Zhirinovskiy denounced the "campaign of lies and humiliation" against him.

He said the campaign has pushed his party to reassess its decision to join Russian President Boris Yeltsin's Agreement on Obtaining Civil Accord in Russia.

The pact, signed in April by some 200 leading Russian politicians, aimed to establish temporary groundrules to limit confrontation in domestic politics and stabilize the country.

Signatories to the accord undertook not to call for early elections, not to amend the new constitution for the time being and to refrain from violating the constitution in their political activities.

Zhirinovskiy's party signed the accord after several weeks of hesitating.

Russia Seen Responsible for CIS Development

LD2306133294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1246 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow, June 23 (TASS)—Russia is responsible for the CIS countries' development. For a long time Russia was a force that united the former republics of the USSR, and it has no moral right to disregard their problems now.

This was the leitmotiff of the hearings on international cooperation in support of peace in conflict zones on CIS territory organized by a number of State Duma committees, including on CIS affairs, on relations with compatriots abroad, on defence and international affairs.

Representatives of CIS member-countries and Western diplomats in Moscow showed keen interest in the conference because of the urgency of its themes.

Russian scientists, historians and diplomats who took part in the hearings noted that Russia was the only force capable of resolving armed conflicts in CIS countries. They said international organisations, such as the United Nations and the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, were not very helpful. Therefore Russia has to move quickly and resolutely to put an end to armed conflicts and arrange for peaceful negotiations between the warring parties.

Communist Party Leader Zyuganov Interviewed

PM2306151194 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 Jun 94 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Central Executive Committee, by SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Chief Editor Valentin Chikin; place and date not given: "Our Cause Is Right"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Chikin] Left-wing politicians and patriotic movements are now groundlessly accusing ordinary people: The people could not care less, they claim, the people are silently observing events. Even those who came under fire at the House of Soviets last October are also complaining about the people—they did not rise, they did not defend. Yet you are saying that they have awaked, and shifted to the left.... Have you felt this during your tours, has this awakening reached a sufficient depth?

[Zyuganov] Valentin Vasilyevich, I have the benefit of quite extensive personal observations. Following the party congress, I made 25 tours covering 45 of the largest centers. Essentially they covered the entire social spectrum. Furthermore, the contacts took the most diverse forms, right up to and including open-door meetings which could have been attended by any voter walking in from the street. Only very recently we counted more than 30,000 persons in the halls where I had occasion to speak. I can confirm the following: People wish to know what is actually happening, how they are being duped, which forces are in opposition. Let me be frank: There was a watershed on 3-4 October. Meetings are different nowadays. The stupor has worn off. Everyone realizes that they are being deprived of everything—jobs, social guarantees, leave entitlement, medical treatment, even the possibility to move away from Vorkuta.... I first encountered this in Vorkuta—elderly passersby stopping in the streets and crying their eyes out about the state to which they have been reduced. You have someone who has spent 25 years working in the polar regions, and everything he has ever earned has been reduced to nothing, he has no opportunity to move away or send away his children or elderly parents.... [passage omitted]

At the same time, there is no longer any room to maneuver. Misfortune is already affecting not just the elderly but also the children. Mentally, whenever a Russian sees that misfortune is affecting children, he behaves more energetically and becomes stauncher. The opposition is now living through an exceptionally important period, a time when it has to analyze developments, regroup, and accurately define the main lines of action. A weighty word can be spoken here by the "Accord for Russia" movement. Real cooperation must be achieved between all patriotic forces on a broad platform of preserving the country's integrity, peace in it, and prosperity in each home. There must a structural preparation of the movement in all Russian regions. Therefore, special importance attaches to regular visits to the provinces, meetings with the aktiv, consolidation of ties with it, and support for it. Especially since, in 70 out of the 88 regions, representative organs have been joined by people who are perfectly well aware of the meaning and spirit of the patriotic movement, reflecting the interests of broad strata of voters, and capable of collective actions for the sake of their people and their fatherland.

It is perfectly obvious that now there are two trends developing somewhat in parallel; the question is which one will take the lead—the destroyers and annihilators of Russia or the people's patriotic forces which are already perfectly well aware of what is happening.

[Chikin] In this context, we have the question of State Duma deputies' responsibility to the people for the country's future. Last December all parties contested a single federal district—so, whose is it now, how confident do Communists and their allies feel in the Duma?

[Zyuganov] On the whole I am satisfied with the position, composition, and abilities of my colleagues from the deputies' faction. The faction now has a highly representative professional and national composition, the voters' instructions have been used to compile a sound package of draft laws, and many of them are already in the works. Even our opponents have been forced to admit that the Communist Party faction has a strong collective potential and is capable of working with all sectors of the Duma, attracting many allies whenever necessary. We are grateful to the Agrarians with whom we share complete mutual understanding, we act jointly with the women's faction and the Democratic Party of Russia on a whole series of issues, and regional deputies quite attentively heed our position. Whenever a question of principle has been at stake, we have garnered 230-260 votes.

On the other hand, all-out attempts are being made to depict the Duma's activity as being limited only to the radical position of "Russia's Choice" and some of its allies. Any proposal for stabilization is either boycotted or rejected by them. Everything to do with stabilizing the economy, halting the disintegration, safeguarding security, or struggling against crime—everything is boycotted.... Even the Law on Struggle Against Corruption, which demands the establishment of elementary norms adopted in practice by the West a long time ago—like declaration of income and the impossibility of combining state service with trade or commercial activity—even this is being boycotted by these people because they have chosen the position of hindering the Duma's work as much as possible. We can see that a mighty and concerted march has been launched against the representative power as such. This takes the form of loathsome articles and insinuations about individual factions, of attempts to denigrate opponents. Nonetheless, the healthy nucleus in the Duma is getting stronger.

As regards our own faction, each month the deputies spend one week in their electoral districts and report back to their voters. Let me say that the last round of visits showed that our deputies had visited at least five to seven labor collectives and received a powerful charge of fresh ideas and interesting proposals.

We initiated the introduction of proposals to urgently examine the question of the emergency in the country's socioeconomic situation jointly with Federation Council deputies, and invitations were issued to the government and the president's representatives. Work is now under way to prepare this meeting, and I assume that it could prove exceptionally fruitful and could lead to serious and impartial assessments of the president's course in today's conditions. I can foresee a very powerful opposition to this sitting.

On the other hand, we have planned a meeting between the faction and voters from the capital at the Parliamentary Center so that we could report back to them, and then to travel across the Russian Federation's regions, submit joint reports with the party aktiv on the results of our work over the last six months, and define our strategy and tactics for the immediate future.

[Chikin] It goes without saying that, for the chairman of the Central Executive Committee, all these routes also lead right across the party structures. How is the party's organizational development progressing now? What features are more noticeable in its image: those of Zhukov and Korolev, those of Brezhnev and Gorbachev, or some others?...

[Zyuganov] The past 15 months have brought radical changes to the party's life. Here are just the statistics of major events. We held one congress, two party conferences, six plenums, eight zonal conferences (and a whole series of new ones is about to begin), and five major scientific-practical conferences on key questions concerning the economy, stable development, the party's organizational development, activity with workers collectives and trade unions, and so on. The party's entire vertical structure was restored during this period. We now have party organizations in all major settlements, cities, republics, krays, and oblasts. The following result was summed up at the party conference: Now we have 550,000 party members concentrated in more than 20,000 party organizations. The leadership structure was rejuvenated during the last report and election campaign by 10 years on average, and ties have been restored with more than 100 left-wing parties and movements all over the world.

We held several meetings with our colleagues from communist parties revived on the territory of the former USSR which, incidentally, already count more than 1 million Communists in their ranks. Meetings were held in Orel, Minsk, and the Moscow region. Leaders of 19 parties gathered recently at Lenin Hills and adopted what I believe to be some very important documents: On the concept of restoring a renewed union state, which was adopted unanimously; on the 50th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War and on Zhukov's 100th birth anniversary; on Lenin's 125th birth anniversary; on protection of our associates languishing behind bars, primarily in the Baltic countries.... On the whole, we succeeded in reviving a union of sufficiently combat-capable organizations.

At the same time, a renewal of the philosophy of ideology is also under way. Unless our ideology is backed by the ideas of great power status, statehood, and patriotism—in addition to the ideas of social justice, brotherhood of people, and friendship among peoples—the party will hardly be able to perform its historic mission, because the main crisis today is the crisis of patriotic awareness. It is, after all, no secret that the country and the CPSU produced an unbelievably large number of traitors and turncoats. People like Zhukov and Korolev were brought up on the spirit of the feats by Aleksandr Nevskiy, Dmitriy Donskoy, Suvorov, and Kutuzov—those who gave unsparingly of themselves for the fatherland's sake.

[Chikin] But these new ideological acquisitions can also be interpreted as a repudiation of the classical dogmas of Marxism—proletarian internationalism, class struggle, revolutionary aims....

[Zyuganov] People are trying to oversimplify the situation and reduce it to primitivism.... On the subject of proletarian internationalism. Look at the situation: Virtually the entire machine building industry is at a standstill. ZIL and Rosselmash, the Chelyabinsk Tractor Plant and Kirovskiy Zavod are up in arms.... What was the response by workers in Kharkov and Minsk, by the proletariat of the Ruhr and Detroit? Did they go out in the streets in protest against growing unemployment in Chelyabinsk and Rostov? Did they halt the trainloads of Snickers being shipped to our country?... Did they, indeed! The current regime is skillfully dividing professionals and workers even within the same specialized field.... A driver in one place earns 70,000 rubles, another driver somewhere else earns 700,000—a 10-fold discrepancy, which is absolutely impermissible in principle. A stratification, a destruction of professional ties is under way. You cannot apply the same class yardstick to everyone. The class approach is exceptionally important when analyzing social phenomena but, in today's conditions, it must unfailingly be combined with a cultural-historical, a sociopsychological approach. Only then can objective conclusions be drawn.

I would like to say that all our scientific research centers are now working on the elaboration of new parameters—in Moscow, in Leningrad, in Novosibirsk.... Many contemporary questions would be impossible to answer by applying only the class approach. This is why all parties, movements, and streams find it so difficult to produce new programs. Programs must reflect the qualitatively new realities which have emerged both in our own country and all over the world.

Incidentally, our adversaries are not so hampered by tunnel vision. For example, following a careful study of the entire psychological profile of Russian man as manifested since the times of Batu Khan, Napoleon, and Hitler, they conclude: Russian man cannot be defeated in open face-to-face battle. They start seeking different methods. We found ourselves unprotected from above. The absolute majority of people were unable to believe, for example, Gorbachev's treason: How could the supreme statesman betray allies, friends, the Army, the party, all and sundry.... Apparently he could.... A ramified fifth-column structure was created, which fragmented our entire nationwide organism. The split followed not straightforward social lines but a more complex path.

There were times when Rus was being split along religious lines; nowadays we not only have preachers from overseas attacking our faith, but also attempts to effect splits along national and territorial lines. And if they succeed in splitting Russia and Ukraine or the Orthodox and the Muslim beyond all reconciliation, it will be virtually impossible to bring society together again.

With all this information in our possession, my colleagues and I spoke on television, asking people to refrain from provocative actions in any direction, I spoke on several occasions to an audience of many thousands at the House of Soviets in an attempt to persuade them: Any move from here could be used by the authorities as a pretext to open fire and finally destroy the Soviet power. The regime was eagerly seeking a pretext to open fire for effect. The majority accepted my point of view. Many people, by the way, did not know that the state of emergency had already been introduced at 1600 on 3 October, at a time when the demonstrators had not yet marched on City Hall and had no plans to move to Ostankino. Nor did people know, of course, that several hundred Spetsnaz troops were already in place along the approaches to Ostankino, lying in wait for the demonstrators. Had the regime not wanted a bloodbath, it would have been enough to get one armored personnel carrier out in the road, fire a few blank rounds, and avoid mass murder. Many people do not know that the snipers, who were shown every day on television being rounded up, suddenly vanished from our side and disappeared whence they had come. Thus, the absence of full information gives some people an opportunity to interpret this address today any way they fancy. Would it not be better to admit that this warning saved hundreds of innocent people?

[Chikin] How do you feel now in the circle of Communist opponents and oppositionists? Can you reach mutual understanding? Are personal sympathies maintained?

[Zyuganov] It is obvious that everyone has reassessed his values and relationships over these years. I am grateful that I was not betrayed by my friends—whether people from my native region who supported me during the difficult year, fellow journalists, or my friends from the alliance of people's patriotic forces. Even though I was frequently the target of critical fire—sometime deservedly, sometime not. But I am an advocate of pooling the efforts of the broadest and most diverse political streams and of all my comrades from the left-wing bloc for the creation of a mighty state-patriotic organization. I maintain weekly contacts with friends and close associates from Belorussia [Belarus], Ukraine, Crimea, the Transcaucasus, and Central Asia and, as a rule, we reach complete mutual understanding on all main issues.

There is a narrow group of individuals here in Moscow, who are trying to imply that they hold the ultimate truth and they alone are ardent revolutionaries. But the number of their supporters is dwindling day by day. For the simple reason that it is virtually impossible to succeed just with bombastic phrases and speeches, without powerful structures, without coordinated policy, and without soundly considered tactics.

[Chikin] The situation in the country is extremely difficult. Each hour is precious when it comes to turning the helm and avoiding disaster. Say an opportunity to join the government were to arise tomorrow, would you accept? On what conditions?

[Zyuganov] I believe that, from the viewpoint of administration, the main evil is the new pyramid of power. The incumbent presidency is rule by general secretary and czar rolled into one. The general secretary feared the congress, the czar feared God's anger, but the power here is neither accountable to nor monitored by anyone. There is no government in the normal sense of the word. You could even say that there are four governments. There is a government which works around Yeltsin, which decides everything and is in command of those bearing arms. There is Chernomyrdin's government which runs the Gazprom and another two or three economic structures. There is Kozyrev's government which, basically speaking, is guided by instructions from the U.S. Department of State. There is also the mass media government controlled by "Russia's Choice"—the democrats will hold onto this mighty power, which orchestrates Russia's troubles, until the very last....

Thus, I would like to say that if these governments continue to function in the same way, no one—not even the most talented person—will be able to resolve a single issue. Generally speaking, this is not a question of who should join the administration, but rather of changing the structure and nature of power, of subordinating this power to the interests of the people, to the national-state interests. In my report to the conference of the "Accord for Russia" movement I actually spoke of the nature of state power and submitted a whole series of specific proposals which, it seems to me, could transform the way the country is being run. [passage omitted]

Shumeyko Addresses Journalists' Congress

LD2306204394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1517 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jun—The intention of Russian journalists to adopt a code of professional ethics "inspires confidence that democracy is alive and kicking," Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko said when speaking today at a congress of Russian journalists. Stressing that the political freedom of the media is sealed in the Constitution, he reaffirmed that the economic situation places dependence on journalists. Many political groups, who, via financial institutions and banks are trying to take the press in hand, are rushing to take advantage of this. According to Vladimir Shumeyko, they are being driven by the desire to create their own image in the run-up to the presidential elections. There are a large number of claimants to the seat of president.

The head of the Federation Council said that the upper chamber of parliament stands for protecting the rights of journalists and their economic independence. He said that the state is committed to giving tax benefits to the "fourth estate," for "one cannot equate the media with consumer goods production."

Vladimir Shumeyko also noted that it is precisely journalists who must become one of the creators of a nation concept which would unite Russians, would fill a spiritual vacuum and inspire confidence in tomorrow. With such an idea, economic problems would be solved much more effectively, Vladimir Shumeyko said.

Economic Issues

Fedorov, Others Address Moscow World Economic Forum

MK2406065594 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jun 94 p 1

[Sergey Rybak report under the "Economy" rubric: "Boris Fedorov Points to Standstill in Reforms. World Economic Forum Winds up in Moscow"]

[Text] The work of the World Economic Forum winds up in Moscow today. The Forum opened in the evening of the day before yesterday. The foreign and Russian entrepreneurs attending it, according to the organizers, set themselves the goal of "getting the feel of the mood of the Russian economy." Addresses by Russian political and business leaders were supposed to help the businessmen in that. On the opening day congress participants were addressed in Moscow's Metropol Hotel by Boris Fedorov, former finance minister; Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, leader of the Duma "Yabloko" bloc; and St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak. Nikolay Travkin made periodic interventions from the floor.

The former finance minister voiced the opinion that the government in its present composition continues to adhere to the course of reforms chosen by Yegor Gaydar's team, however, there is no movement in many sectors, owing to which reform is rolling back.

In Boris Fedorov's view, the present parliament cannot work effectively to speed up reforms. "Russia has a need for new professional politicians," Mr. Fedorov stated. St. Petersburg Mayor Sobchak painted his city to the foreigners in roseate hues. According to him, the situation in the city is so favorable that it will soon host the Goodwill games. Mr. Travkin largely attributed the rampant crime to the development of entrepreneurship in Russia.

Listening to representatives of the Russian establishment were entrepreneurs representing the world's major companies in Russia. Most of them are already carrying out specific projects. According to Roger Gale, International Finance Corporation (IFC) representative in Moscow, international finance organizations have three to five more years left for active work on the market of investments in the Russian economy, following which, the IFC representative believed, the key positions in the country will be taken by Russian financiers.

Economic Committee Chief Says Edicts 'Crude'

MK2306102294 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 4

[Sergey Rybak report: "Some Presidential Edicts Are Crude. Glazyev's Report Under Discussion at the Economic-Mathematical Studies Center"]

[Text] Yet another discussion of the report "Main Guidelines of State Economic Policy," which was drawn up by a group of authors under Sergey Glazyev, chairman of the State Duma Committee on Economic Policy, was held yesterday at the Economic-Mathematical Studies Center.

The discussion was attended by scientists from the Russian Academy of Sciences, State Duma deputies, officials from various Russian ministries, and also businessmen.

Sergey Glazyev's report was devoted to problems concerning reform of the Russian economy and also proposals aimed at improving it. Mr. Glazyev repeated his proposals that the state fine-tune the "mechanism of market self-organization" by regulating markets, supporting enterprises engaged in nonprofitmaking activity, and transferring the management rights over commercial state institutions to a special State Property Fund.

The report submitted for discussion also contained proposals aimed at adjusting the pension system, combating inflation, and reversing the slump in production by giving greater subsidies to state-owned enterprises. Speakers from among the report's co- authors suggested, in particular, that the system of tax collection be changed so as to collect half of government revenues by levying charges on the use of natural resources and environmental taxes.

In a conversation with your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent, Mr. Glazyev also touched on the president's recent economic edicts. In his view, these are steps in the right direction, but some of the edicts are still crude. In his words, laws to be enacted by the Federal Assembly will "set the edicts right." In addition, Boris Yeltsin's edicts were largely based on the 50 bills that were passed to the president by the State Duma last winter "for consultations," the State Duma committee chairman said.

Shortly the parliament is scheduled to discuss the first presidential economic packages, draft federal laws, and amendments to existing laws. In particular, they will consider the problems of foreign investment, the customs code, and foreign economic activity.

State Duma Deputy Irina Khakamada, member of the "12 December" faction, commented on the discussion of the "guidelines" as follows: "I like in Mr. Glazyev's program the pension proposal whereby people will be paid state pensions that will be set in accordance with a subsistence level, and extra money will be allocated from private pension funds. I cannot imagine, however, how, given the proposed subsidies, state enterprises could compete with each other; moreover, where is the guarantee that another government would be better equipped to tackle the problems the current one cannot solve?"

Economists Criticize Privatization Strategy

LD2306131894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 23 Jun 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Today, the heads of the International Reform Foundation subjected the first stage of Russian privatization to diverse criticism. This was done at the presentation of a weighty report which is due tomorrow to land on the desks of the president, the prime minister, ministers, deputies, heads of administrations, bankers, and CIS leaders.

In the view of the report's authors, the government's actions in the privatization sphere have been justified in the formal sense but, given the lack of an overall strategy for development, the haphazard nature of the measures and the fact that they are even divorced from reality, and given the general loss of control in the socio-economic sphere, Chubays-style headlong privatization is having quite the opposite results. Criminal economic structures are emerging instead of a layer of private owners. There are no major enterprises which could boast of success. Investment in industry is falling. There is no link between economic market processes and federative relations. The economists demand that the Russian authorities clarify the objectives of privatization and national priorities.

Inflation Drops to 6.9 Percent

LD2406132394 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Russia's state statistical service has reviewed the country's development in the first six months of the year. It says that a kind of record was set. Inflation dropped to the lowest level in all of the two and a half years of reform. It amounted to 6.9 percent. At the same time, through tough financial measures, the government has been able to slow down the growth of prices. But as the government experts say, it is too early to celebrate victory. In the same period there's been a record high bank emission. Almost four trillion more rubles were put into circulation. Experts say that such a big wave of money that are not backed by commodities or services could tell on the home market in two or three months.

Soskovets Raps Fuel Ministry Forecasts

LD2306140394 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] At today's meeting of the cabinet, Oleg Soskovets, Russian first deputy prime minister, voiced his dissatisfaction with the Ministry of Fuel and Power Engineering's position while discussing the issue of how enterprises and organizations were preparing for the fall and winter period. According to him, the panic-stricken pronouncements by the ministry's representative to the effect that we will not survive this winter can mean only one thing: Such people should be found who will be able to organize work in a new way.

Prices for Foodstuffs, Nonfood Goods Cited

PM2306110794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jun 94 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report based on figures supplied by Russian Federation Government's Center for Economic Conditions: "Inflation, Are You Sleeping Or Finished?"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Government's Center for Economic Conditions reports that, according to figures from state statistical organs, the overall inflation rate was 100.8 percent over the past week, 102.8 percent since the start of the month, and up 1.8 times since the start of the year. Price growth was approximately identical for foodstuffs, nonfood goods, and paid services to the population.

We congratulate our readers—the past week saw the lowest level of inflation (0.8 percent) in the past 30 months.

Consumer prices of goods and services in the Central Chernozem, Volga, and Urals Regions remained virtually at last week's level, and in four economic regions they changed by less than 1 percent. Only in the Northern, Central, Volgo-Vyatka, and West Siberia Regions was their growth slightly over 1 percent.

The most marked increase last week was for fruit (up 4.9 percent), groats, pasta, and salt (up 1.7 percent), and bread and loaves (up 1.3 percent).

Prices of butter, vegetable oil, fish, and vodka did not increase. Eggs were 2 percent cheaper compared with the end of May.

The average cost of a basket of 19 of the most important foodstuffs as of 14 June was 56,000 rubles [R] over the month—an increase of 1.1 percent on the week, of 3.8 percent since the start of the month, and of 80 percent since the start of the year. The basket cost R53,900 in the official trading network, and R68,700 at markets, stalls, or from private traders (in other words, still 30 percent dearer). The spread between the maximum and minimum cost of the basket in different Russian cities was 260 percent (as against 250 percent in the previous week).

The most "expensive" area in terms of the cost of the basket is still the Far East Economic Region—R91,200 over the month. The basket cost R43,200—or less than half as much—in the "cheapest" region (Central Chernozem Region).

The biggest increase in the cost of the basket in Russian regions was in the North Caucasus and East Siberia Regions—up by 6.3 and 4.3 percent respectively. There was hardly any increase at all in the cost of the basket for the residents of the Volgo-Vyatka, Central Chernozem, and Volga Regions.

In Moscow the cost of the basket of 19 of the most important foodstuffs was up by 4.4 percent over the week to stand at R63,800 at 14 June. There was hardly any increase in the cost of the basket in St. Petersburg—its cost there being R55,300. Moscow moved up from 36th to 30th on the list of cities surveyed, while St. Petersburg is in 50th place (49th last week).

Prices for nonfood goods also increased minimally—by just 0.9 percent. The largest increases over the week were for wallpaper, medicine, and matches (up 3 percent) and for children's knitwear and summer footwear (up 2 percent). Fuel prices were unchanged.

The differences in the price dynamics of nonfood goods in different economic regions were insignificant last week. Prices of nonfood goods increased by between 0.2 percent in the East Siberia Region and 1.6 percent in the Volgo-Vyatka Region. Moreover, price growth for industrial goods was higher than the Russian average in the Central Chernozem, Central, Urals, and West Siberia Regions.

The "costliest" cities in terms of prices of nonfood goods continue to be Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Novyy Urengoy, Yakutsk, and Magadan.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Government Approves Amendments to Law on Servicemen

LD2306201794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1831 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow June 23 TASS—The Russian Government has approved amendments to the existing legislature at its session today. A law on the status of servicemen was adopted practically without debates and a resolution was adopted to submit the law to the president for signing.

If the Russian president signs the law, amendments will be made to Russian laws on pensions, freedom of religion, income tax, tax on property and land, law on employment and the land code of the Russian Federation.

These amendments will give a number of privileges in social welfare to servicemen and their families, envisaged by the Russian law on the status of servicemen, taking into account the specifics of a military service.

In an interview to journalists after the government session was over, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said that all privileges earlier granted to servicemen will remain in force.

Northern Fleet Conducts Missile Exercise

LD2306163494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] According to a report today from the Russian Navy's press center, command and staff training in administering Russia's armed forces was carried out in keeping with an operational training plan for the period of 21-22 June, under the leadership of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the supreme commander in chief. During the training a strategic purpose guided missile cruiser [raketnyy podvodnyy kreyser strategicheskogo naznacheniya] of the Northern Fleet launched, on the command of the commander in chief, a ballistic missile from the waters of the Barents Sea to Kamchatka area. It is reported that the missile head arrived at the predetermined destination. The launching was carried out in an ordinary manner.

Similar exercises also took place at the state missile testing ground at Plesetsk. For the first time in the entire history of the strategic purpose missile troops, journalists observed the launching of the Topol SS-25 intercontinental ballistic missile, which will become the basis of Russia's strategic nuclear forces before the year 2005. It is the purpose of the exercises to develop a system of monitoring and tracking and to check the reliability of the military equipment. The 45-tonne missile was launched towards a training target situated on the Kamchatka peninsula. Its nuclear warhead weighing practically a tonne is capable of striking the target with an accuracy of a few meters.

The missile also works well for peaceful purposes. In the autumn of this year the refitted Topol will put a radio-technical satellite into near-Earth orbit. When the missile has served its military term, the missile will launch a satellite a second time. In the future this will allow Russia to resolve two tasks simultaneously: in accordance with the START-II treaty, to cut down nuclear armaments and to create a launch vehicle for space satellites without enormous expense. One only needs to add that today's exercises were absolutely peaceful ones. The unarmed warhead, which struck the target precisely, did not harm anyone.

Yeltsin Shows 'Deep Understanding' of Nuclear Issues

MK2306070094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Pavel Felgengauer in the "Defense" column: "Russian Nuclear Triad Ready for Action. President Yeltsin Presses 'Red Button' for First Time"]

[Text] The latest annual command staff exercise on control of the Russian Federation Strategic Nuclear Forces, held 21-22 June at the Russian Army General Staff with the participation of the main staffs of the Navy, the Air Force, and the Strategic Missile Forces (the sea, air, and ground components of the strategic nuclear triad), differed markedly from the previous ones. Chief of General Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov told SEGODNYA's correspondent that for the first time the country's top civilian official—the supreme commander (the president)—personally directed the national Strategic Nuclear Forces. This is without precedent in the entire existence of Soviet nuclear weapons.

On the morning of 22 June—a notable day in Russia's history—during the final stage of the exercise, Boris Yeltsin arrived at the General Staff accompanied by his national security adviser Yuriy Baturin and, according to General Kolesnikov, "personally exercised control" from the General Staff Central Command Post. According to the military, "the president showed a deep understanding on matters of the control of strategic forces and issued guidance on improving the Strategic Nuclear Forces taking into account the bilateral agreements with the United States and Great Britain on missile retargeting."

Then the president returned to the Kremlin, canceling a scheduled meeting with the press, so his personal impressions about how the famous nuclear button operates remain unknown to the broad public. Meanwhile, the country's top military leadership went to "a command post at one branch of the armed forces to rehearse one element," and with that the training session was successfully concluded.

According to the chief of General Staff, the exercise showed that the Russian Federation nuclear triad and early warning system are "ready to address the tasks assigned in accordance with existing regulations."

Topol Missiles Converted to Space Rockets

LD2306201394 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Correspondents Aleksandr Gerasimov and Nikolay Federov report from the Plesetsk test ground]

[Text] [Gerasimov] Just like everything else in the world, strategic missiles are getting old as well. The most modern of them—the Topols—have been given 15 years of life by their constructors, after which they will be scrapped. It is unlikely that these missiles will come under the treaty on cutting offensive weapons. Today, Russia has no money to create new nuclear systems.

Scientists at the Kompleks scientific-technical center, which created the SS-25, and now in financial crisis like the majority of their colleagues in the defense industry, have decided to earn money with the elderly missiles. The Topols that have been taken out of active service are being purchased with credits from the Defense Ministry, and START-II space rockets will be built, based on these missiles.

The Plesetsk cosmodrome has the chance to become a cosmodrome twice over. Previously, all space work was carried out by officers in the military-space forces. Taking part in the START-II program are workers from the Plesetsk test ground and a structural unit in the Strategic Missile Troops. The departmental division of the two sections of the Defense ministry barely allows them to unite their space efforts.

In the meantime, such an unnaturally long rocket can carry cargoes weighing up to 1.5 tonnes into space from unprepared launch sites, and is capable of working anywhere on the planet. So we have learned that a project is being developed to launch a South African satellite from the territory of the Republic of South Africa. However, in order to enter the market with new launch vehicles, it is necessary to confirm its reliability. The developers are counting on the reliability of the SS-25 base rocket, which was last launched on Wednesday [22 June].

'Start' Conversion Missile To Be Tested

LD2306131994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0815 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jun—Preparations for the launch of a "Start" missile within a conversion program for the use of weapons systems for peaceful purposes have started. The preparations are under way at the state test range of strategic missile troops in Mirnyy, Arkhangel Oblast. In an exclusive interview with an ITAR- TASS correspondent, Lieutenant General Yuriy Zhuravlev, head of the test range, said that henceforth "Topol" missiles would not be destroyed after their service life. According to him, after modification at the factory, each system will be used for placing non-military satellites into near-earth orbit.

Using extra-budgetary funds, enterprises of the defense complex have carried out experimental and design work to improve "Topol" specifications and presented an experimental specimen for tests at the state test range of strategic missile troops. In Gen. Zhuravlev's view, a new rocket, named "Start," has been developed. It has a strictly peaceful purpose promising great economic benefits to Russia. Contracts for launching communications satellites, worth many millions, have already been signed with South Africa and other countries.

In Gen. Zhuravlev's view, the "Start" can put satellites in orbit from anywhere in the world. Its movable platform and control block can be carried by different transport vehicles. Preparations for a launch take no more than several minutes. After test range trials the "Start" will put a satellite in orbit, and this will be the first step in using the famous "Topol" system for peaceful purposes. The launch is to take place somewhere in September, and in the meantime preparations for using this unique Russian missile system in a new role are in full swing, Lt.-Gen. Zhuravlev said.

Government Fails To Implement Defense Tariff Pact

MK2306122594 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 4

[Report by R.S. under the "In Brief" rubric: "5 Percent of Required Amount Earmarked for Conversion So Far"]

[Text] On 21 June at the State Committee for the Defense Industry [Gosoboronprom] a meeting took place of participants in the trilateral commission that early this year produced and signed the first tariff agreement regulating relations between the employers, in the shape of Gosoboronprom, trade unions in defense industry sectors, and the government, as represented by the Ministry of Labor. It had to be held because of the disastrous situation with regard to implementing the main points of the agreement. In particular, the state has not paid its debt of 441 billion rubles [R] for military equipment produced as part of the 1993 defense order.

The situation is made considerably worse by the fact that now, when the 1995 state defense order is nearly a fifth of last year's, there have also been considerable cuts in the funds earmarked for military conversion. Out of the R4.7 trillion required this year to carry through conversion programs, as little as R0.25 trillion was appropriated in the first quarter—slightly more than 5 percent of the intended sum. The funding of research and development on weapons and military hardware was not indexed in the first six months, although this is enshrined in the tariff agreement and is on the whole being done in Russia's national economy.

The main reason for the failure to act on the tariff agreement provisions noted by virtually all participants in the meeting lies in the current structure of the draft Russian budget being discussed in the State Duma. The main culprit in the prevailing situation, trade unions in defense sectors think, is the Russian Government, which is not living up to its pledges. This will soon provoke heightened social tension in the regions where the main defense enterprises are located, the Gosoboronprom press service says.

Decommissioned Subs Said To Pose Radiation Threat

MK2306103594 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by Valeriy Batuyev under the "Problem" rubric: "'Outcasts' Wait for Somebody To Take Care of Them. Delay Fraught With Danger"]

[Text] Russia never had nuclear submarines in the Black or Baltic Seas. So after the Soviet Union broke up none of them was inherited by the former Union republics. Over the next few years Russia alone will have to recycle more than 200 of these craft containing a considerable quantity of radioactive waste. This is required by both START-II and the fact that the service life of the submarines, many of which are still afloat, has come to an end. But it turns out that at present Russia still cannot comply with START-II promptly, in an environmentally clean fashion, and at the same time to its economic advantage: There is no appropriate technology that can be universally applied. There are programs and government decrees, but extremely poor financing hinders their implementation. The recycling of submarines is a loss-making process. In addition, the Navy—the latest owner of the equipment, although technically it is owned by the State Committee for the Management of State Property—does not keep track of the degree to which all required parts of the equipment are present. It is received for recycling without parts and circuits containing nonferrous and precious metals, such as gold, silver, and copper.... In addition, the recycling has to be done by the so-called "roundabout" method: After a submarine is placed on the stocks, the reactor compartment is cut off, but associated redundant compartments are retained. The reactor compartment is then sealed and thrown into the water. Hence the term "outcast." They will remain in the water until the Defense Ministry builds long-promised storage facilities for them. The Defense Ministry, in turn, is waiting for money from the state to do so.

Currently there are around 30 nuclear submarines and "outcasts" subject to recycling underwater near large cities, such as Severodvinsk and Bolshoy Kamen, and the village of Snezhnogorsk. Each of them is kept afloat thanks to municipal electric power, thus causing economic damage to the state. Once the power is turned off the "outcasts" will run aground, and the possible seal failure (after 30 years in service) may cause a discharge of radioactive waste. Each submarine (of the earlier types) contains 300-400 cubic meters of radioactive waste measuring from 100,000 to 1 million curie, whereas the safe level for discharging such waste into the water stands at 10 curie (to the power of minus 9). The overall quantity of radioactive waste awaiting recycling has been estimated by specialists at 2,200 cubic meters in Severodvinsk, 2,000 cubic meters in Bolshoy Kamen, and 93 cubic meters in Snezhnogorsk. In the coming years another 200 or so submarines will be decommissioned in the Navy.

Cosmonauts Continue Research on Mir Space Station

LD2406101594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1004 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Flight Control Centre (Moscow region) June 24 TASS—The Russian cosmonauts continue their mission aboard the Mir space station.

They conducted geophysical, astrophysical, technological and medical experiments this week. The crew was also preparing the ballistic capsule of the Progress M-23 ferry for its return to the earth.

Friday's programme of work includes astrophysical experiments to study gamma-radiation flows of galactic origin and investigation of properties of various materials in open space.

Under the medical control programme, investigations will be conducted to check up water-salt metabolism and to take clinical blood analysis of cosmonauts who experienced zero-gravity conditions for a long time.

Work in space proceeds according to a preset programme. The cosmonauts are healthy and feel well.

Federal Assembly

State Duma Approves 1994 Federal Budget

LD2406072194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0704 GMT 24 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow June 24 TASS—The State Duma, the lower house of the Russian federal legislature, has finally approved the Russian federal budget for 1994 as a whole after months of debates. On Friday morning 273 deputies voted for it, with 80 voting against and eight abstaining. Four deputies, who left their electronic voting cards behind, supported the vote in favour at the microphones in the hall.

The law provides for the spending of 194.5 trillion roubles and the revenue of 124.5 trillion roubles. It imposes a cap of 70 trillion roubles on the budget deficit.

Following the approval by the Duma, the law will be forwarded to the Federation Council.

The budget-94 was eventually approved in the fourth round of voting after the earlier three rounds on Wednesday failed to give the seal of approval to the budget, which the deputies found lacking due allocations for defence, health care and education.

The Duma had to set an hour apart for voting on Friday and threatened sanctions to absentees. All scheduled trips were cancelled and those on business elsewhere were recalled to ensure the quorum.

Federation Council Fails To Adopt Anticrime Edict

LD2406093494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0911 GMT 24 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow June 24 TASS—The discussion, started on Thursday, of the presidential decree "On Urgent Measures To Protect the Population From Banditry and Other Manifestations of Organised Crime", did not end with the adoption of any decision on Friday. None of four draft resolutions polled the necessary number of votes. Neither did the deputies support a proposal to form an editorial commission to work out a new document.

The Federation Council, according to the Constitution, may not turn down or endorse a presidential decree, Issa Kostoyev, chairman of the Federation Council Committee on Constitutional Legislation and Judicial Matters, told ITAR-TASS. But since Boris Yeltsin referred the document to the Federation Council, expressing hope that the upper house of parliament "will ensure the exercise of necessary measures to enact the decree in the regions and constitutent republics of the Federation", the deputies began to examine it, Kostoyev said.

The legislation committee, upon studying the decree, came forward with a draft resolution emphasising that "any measures to combat crime should be based on strict observance of Russia's Constitution and federal laws."

The draft resolution shares the president's concern and supports on the whole the resolute measures being taken by him to step up anti-crime fight.

At the same time the deputies "have to state that the decree contains a number of provisions that run counter to the Constitution and legislation," Kostoyev said. He believes that the contraditions are quite resolvable. "Therefore, in the draft resolution we suggested that the acting prosecutor-general "ensure strict observance of the rights and freedoms of citizens, the norms of the constitution and criminal procecude legislation".

In view of the fact that the deputies did not accept either this draft resolution or three other ones, Kostoyev recalled that, according to the Constitution, the presidential decree signed on June 14 is already in effect throughout the territory of the Russian Federation.

Deputies Show Mixed Response to Call for Extended Terms

PM2306130194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Vasiliy Ustyuzhanin: "Corps of Deputies: We Are Not Stokers or Carpenters, But We Are Continuously at Work"]

[Text] Surprisngly enough, the proposal by the speaker of parliament's upper chamber, Vladimir Shumeyko, to extend by a further two years the electoral term of the presidency and parliament did not provoke a stormy reaction in the lower chamber.

The Duma members are still in thought. Doctor of Juridical Sciences M. Mityukov, deputy chairman of the State Duma, did not conceal the fact: "I need to ponder it. I am not yet ready to give a response."

Gennadiy Burbulis was more candid: "I support the proposal. There is no point holding elections for their own sake. Society needs to develop a good structure over this time."

For whom, in fact, is a consensus at the highest levels an advantage? For many. For some, because all the possible nightmares, settling of scores, and squabbles which would inevitably be unleashed with a sudden change of power, recede into hazy oblivion. For others, it gives time to resolve their many personal problems.

There is no doubt that the majority of deputies will be privately and publicly in favor of extending their term of office. The only people to be unhappy will be the leaders of parties and movements who have already publicly stated that they will put themselves forward as presidential and parliamentary candidates. Konstantin Borovoy will patently curse. Rutskoy will stigmatize the proposal. Zhirinovskiy will convene another news conference, and Baburin has already come out unequivocally against it: "The deputies are being bought off. The authorities are evading their responsibility."

Proposal on Term Extension, Election Delay Criticized

PM2306142194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 2

[Article by Valeriy Vyzhutovich: "Call for Extended Term of Office. Vladimir Shumeyko Opposed to Parliamentary and Presidential Elections in 1996"]

[Text] Delivering a report to the upper chamber of parliament on Tuesday, Vladimir Shumeyko spoke against holding elections to the State Duma and the Federation Council in 1996. The activity of the first Federal Assembly, in his opinion, should be extended by two more years. The speaker also noted that the presidential elections could also be postponed. At least, Shumeyko stated, "it would be useful if Boris Nikolayevich remained for at least one more term."

The comment by the head of the Federation Council that Boris Yeltsin's presidential powers should not be restricted to one term is hardly sensational: Shumeyko has been saying that more often than anyone else. But this is the first time that the upper chamber speaker has expressed a wish for the life of the present Federal Assembly to be prolonged.

Vladimir Shumeyko said that the present parliamentarians needed an "extended" term for the following reasons: "The majority of deputies are beginning to understand what is expected of them, but soon many will be starting to think more about their election campaign than engaging in legislative activity."

This high-level praise of the "majority of the deputies," who are only just beginning to "understand what is expected of them" after six months of state service, is in itself dubious. But the main thing is that it is undeserved: So far the Duma colleagues' understanding of "what is expected of them" has extended only to the adoption of a single law—on the status of deputies—with a wide range of self-bestowed rights, privileges, benefits, and so forth. And to the amnesty granted to certain inhabitants of Lefortovo Prison. The publication of the most important laws, such as, for example, the law on the Constitutional Court, on the president, and on elections, is being delayed—the deputies are busy with scandals, interfactional war, and incessant bickering.

Against tha background of such productivity as this by the Duma, the legislative activity of the president, who has been issuing whole sets of edicts one after another, seems to demonstrate an enforced need for the head of state to take the initiative himself. Furthermore, the scale of this initiative, which seems to contain just about everything imaginable—from major economic decisions to edicts on housing construction and the fight against gangsterism—has given observers grounds for saying that Boris Yeltsin has launched his own new election campaign. To judge from Vladimir Shumeyko's statement, however, what is being tested is the idea of completely forgoing presidential elections by extending Yeltsin's powers for at least one more term. Without any doubt, the aim of the statement was to find out what reaction it would get in political circles and in society.

The reaction was this. Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin announced that he is ready to support his Federation Council colleague's proposal on condition that there is a perceptible stabilization of the economy in the next two-three months and the two chambers of parliament prove viable. Vyacheslav Kostikov, the president's press secretary, was more cautious, noting in an interview for EKHO MOSKVY that Boris Yeltsin had not been informed of Shumeyko's initiative but that, irrespective of that, the opinion of the Federation Council chairman "should be heeded." Aleksandr Yakovlev, the president's representative in the Federal Assembly, gave a trenchant and forthright reaction to Shumeyko's proposal when he said in an interview for IZVESTIYA: "I would regard any initiative aimed at revising the Constitution with great apprehension, no matter how well-intentioned that initiative may be. Cancelling the Federal Assembly elections would set a precedent which would endanger the existence of one of the main elements of democracy." When asked whether this judgment also applied to the proposal to extend Boris Yeltsin's term of office, the president's representative in the Federal Assembly replied: "Undoubtedly."

The idea of canceling the next presidential election has been around in the Kremlin for some time now in the form of repeated public comments on that score by Sergey Filatov and Vladimir Shumeyko. But this is the first time that the idea has been circulated politically and socially in conjunction with the proposal to preserve the present composition of the Federal Assembly for an extra two years. Clearly, it goes without saying that such political bartering will make the Duma and the Federation Council more amenable to the proposed cancellation of the next presidential election. There is also an assumption that no political party is yet really prepared for a presidential campaign and thus might have an interest in postponing it (apart, perhaps, from the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia and its leader, who are rapidly losing ground and realize that delay could be fatal). But so far, it seems, there has not been a sympathetic response in parliament to Shumeyko's initiative. Boris Fedorov, chairman of the "12 December" faction, has already stated that he does not intend to prolong his deputy's powers beyond the term laid down by the Constitution. In an interview in IZVESTIYA, Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov was even more categorical: "I believe that the situation in Russia has gone beyond the urgent stage. We cannot wait until 1995 for elections, let alone 1996."

The implementation of Shumeyko's proposal will require the amemdment of Section Two, Paragraph Seven of the Constitution, which lays down that "the Federation Council, First Convocation, and the State Duma, First Convocation, are elected for a term of two years." However, that does not bother the upper chamber speaker. Even if it is necessary to hold a referendum to amend the relevant articles of the Constitution so as to cancel the elections, Shumeyko told journalists, that referendum will be far cheaper than the cost of an election campaign.

How will this latest attempt to skimp on democracy end?

Upper House Seeks Power To Appoint Court Chairman

LD2306150594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] The Federation Council insists that it be given the right to appoint the chairman of the Constitutional Court. It moved this proposal, and many other amendments to the draft law on the Constitutional Court to the State Duma, Chairman of the State Duma Committee for Legislation and Judicial Reform Vladimir Isakov (the Agrarian Party) told INTERFAX.

He said that according to the draft law on the Constitutional Court, proposed by his committee and approved by the State Duma at first reading, the right to elect the chairman of the Constitutional Court is vested with the judges of the constitutional court. He also said that his committee would recommend that the State Duma turn down the amendments advanced by the Federation Council.

The State Duma will discuss the Federation Council's amendments on Friday in a block, he said. He also believes that the Federation Council's sudden initiative complicates the adoption of the law on the constitutional court by both chambers.

This law is to be adopted by two thirds of the votes, not by a simple majority, Isakov said. It will be very difficult to secure so many votes in the Federation Council, he added.

Regional Issues

Shakhray Worried About Delivery of Goods to North

LD2306134694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1303 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Khabarovsk June 23 ITAR-TASS—Russian Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray today said the situation with the delivery of goods to the northern regions of Russia was alarming as a whole and bordering on emergency in several regions. The government commission headed by him met on Thursday to discuss deliveries of goods to the northern areas of the Russian far eastern Khabarovsk territory.

More than two million tons of goods are to be delivered to the regions within a brief navigation period. The operation costs an estimated 624 billion rubles, according to the territorial leaders. Because of the appalling shortage of financial resources, the deliveries of goods are being conducted extremely unsatisfactorily. The main supplier enterprises have vast debts and are unable to pay off even last year's credits.

There are no stocks of fuel, foodstuffs and other goods in ports. The Amur Shipping Line's ships lie idle in docks.

This year, a new system of financing northern deliveries was introduced, a new 5.5 trillion-ruble federal fund was set up and regional funds are being established, according to Shakhray.

Forty-five billion rubles were earmarked for the Khabarovsk territory from the federal fund and 47 billion rubles were given as credit resources. According to the governmental commission, Shakhray stressed, despite insufficient financing, this money is enough to pay for a more intensive delivery of goods to northern regions. The money goes first of all to pay for the deliveries of oil products, coal and foodstuffs.

Members of the commission visited the Khabarovsk port, examined local power plants and other enterprises. A working protocol identifying tasks and priorities for ministries, departments and other structures for the next few months and for the perspective was signed.

The government commission members are scheduled to leave Khabarovsk for Irkutsk on Thursday.

Shakhray Assures Winter Supplies for Magadan Oblast

OW2306144994 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Gennadiy Ovchinnikov report; from the "Pacific Ocean" program]

[Text] Sergey Shakhray, vice premier of the Russian Federation, arrived in Magadan yesterday. During the tour of the Far East, matters ensuring the delivery of cargo to the regions of the extreme north for the coming winter will be discussed. Before arriving in Magadan, Sergey Shakhray visited Krasnoyarsk and Yakutsk. After Magadan, he intends to visit Irkutsk and Khabarovsk. Our Magadan correspondent, Gennadiy Ovchinnikov, has the details.

[Begin Ovchinnikov recording] As the vice premier said at his meeting with journalists, his present tour differs radically from similar government visits of past years. Primarily, this is because he has brought real money for the resupply of the northern regions instead of slogans and promises. Sergey Shakhray said: I specifically did not leave Moscow for Magadan until I succeeded in getting the Ministry of Finance to transfer the promised 55 billion rubles here.

The system of credits for the delivery of cargo for northerners has also been fundamentally changed. From now on, the credits will not be undirected as they were last year, when the money disappeared without control to numerous traders as compensation for transport expenses. Second, the suppliers of goods will be prepaid—that is, they will receive the money now and not at the end of the year. In a word, these measures are nothing else if not a return to the old, well-proven system of supplying the north which existed before perestroyka.

The couple of dozen deputy ministers accompanying the vice premier solved on the spot almost all of the problems that Magadan Oblast had accumulated. The remaining issues apparently will be solved at Magadan Airport, during the meeting with the Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who in a day or two will make a routine maintenance stop in Magadan on his return to Russia from the U.S. [end recording]

Directive on Russian-Tatar Power Delimitation Treaty

PM2206145394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 5

[Russian Federation President Directive no. 306-rp]

[Text] With a view to implementing the Russian Federation and Republic of Tatarstan treaty "on the delimitation of areas of authority and the reciprocal delegation of powers between the Russian Federation organs of state power and the Republic of Tatarstan organs of state power" and the agreements between the Russian Federation Government and the Republic of Tatarstan Government and with view to monitoring their observance:

1. A commission consisting of representatives of federal organs of executive power and Republic of Tatarstan organs of executive power shall be created on an equitable basis.

2. O.N. Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, shall be appointed leader of the commission. The commission leader in coordination with the Republic of Tatarstan organs of state power shall approve the commission's composition.

[signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin, 18 June 1994.

Tatarstan Representative Appointed to Moscow

PM2406104994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 24 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by Dmitriy Orlov: "Nail Aminov Ready To Cooperate with All Constructive Politicians"]

[Text] In accordance with the treaty between Russia and Tatarstan by an edict of President Mintimer Shaymiyev Nail Galeyevich Aminov has been appointed Tatarstan's fully empowered representative in the Russian Federation.

Nail Aminov is a Tatar by nationality. He was born in 1945 in Kazan and then studied in the Tatar capital. He worked in the Bashkir Government. In 1990 he was elected a Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic people's deputy and worked as a committee deputy chairman, subcommittee chairman, and parliament department chief. Last year he was appointed deputy chairman of a Russian state committee.

The Tatarstan representative stated in a talk with your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent that the main parting message given to him by President Shaymiyev was "to serve loyally." In Aminov's opinion it is essential that the treaty between Russia and Tatarstan should be implemented in all spheres, for which the relevant agreements should be concluded. Nail Aminov noted that he regards collaboration with the recently created Russian-Tatar commission under the leadership of Oleg Soskovets as one of the most important tasks facing him and expressed the certainty that Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray and minister Nikolay Yegorov will take an active part in the commission's work. Aminov stated his readiness to cooperate with all Russia's political forces "of a constructive bent."

Bashkortostan Premier Praises Accords With Moscow

MK2306110094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Bashkortostan"]

[Text] Speaking at the current Supreme Soviet session, Bashkortostan Prime Minister Anatoliy Koptsev pointed out that the recent signing of agreements between the republic and the Russian Federation gives Bashkortostan independence in solving numerous problems and helps the Russian Government realize the need to give broader rights to the regions. In the Bashkortostan prime minister's view, the main thing today is to devise a mechanism for putting the agreements into practice. The 10 agreements that deal mostly with economic matters are the result of two years' hard work. The documents cover environmental protection, power-sharing with regard to state-owned property, customs matters, and international and economic relations. From now on the republic will take over control of the activity of the fuel and energy sector on its territory and will form its currency and gold reserves on its own. However, agreements on the budget and relations with the Russian Central Bank have yet to be signed. A group of officials from the Russian Finance Ministry currently visiting Ufa is studying the problem.

Moscow To Demand Deposit for Foreign Workers

PM2306140194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 7

[Report by Viktor Belikov: "Foreigners Invited To Work in Moscow"]

[Text] A special directive from Moscow's mayor establishes new rules for attracting and exploiting the foreign work force in the capital.

Henceforth an employer who wishes to attract foreign workers to Moscow must first apply to the city government departments or committees corresponding to his line of work and convincingly justify the need to "import" outsiders. A ruling on the appropriateness of such an action will be delivered to him within 30 days.

If a positive ruling on the possibility of giving work to foreigners is obtained, the employer is to put down a sort of pledge for every worker invited, equivalent to the cost of the worker's return fare to his country of permanent residence. This measure is being introduced in case Moscow's law-enforcement organs need to deport the foreigner as an undesirable alien in those extreme cases which, unfortunately, happen quite often. If nothing of the sort occurs and the foreign worker returns to his home country in the normal way, the pledge is returned.

The capital's Main Administration of Internal Affairs Visas and Registrations Administration registers the arrival of foreign workers and the city's statistical service keeps a permanent record of them. The number of foreigners invited is determined according to the corresponding quotas established for the number of foreign citizens as a whole and the total number per professional group that can be hired for work in Moscow. Permits to attract a foreign work force are issued by the Russian Federal Migration Service according to the ruling of the Moscow government. A permit is granted to an employee for a period of up to one year; he cannot transfer this permit to other persons or organizations; nor can he transfer the foreign workers to another place. It is of no little importance that a payment of one month's minimum salary is to be made to the city budget in return for permits for each worker.

The foreigner can work on Moscow territory only when he has obtained a document from the city's migration service—confirmation of the right to labor activity, which can be obtained only as a result of an application from an employer and only within the permitted quota. Exceptions are made for highly skilled foreign specialists invited to take up leading posts in enterprises with foreign investments, and also diplomats, major scientific and cultural figures, priests, correspondents and journalists accredited in our country, and some higher education students and specialists.

The first survey of the number of foreigners invited to work in Moscow is scheduled for 1 August.

Chukchi Region To Trade Oil Products With Europe

LD2306170294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] The Russian government allowed the Chukchi Autonomous Area administration to trade in oil products with European countries so as to use the hard-currency proceeds for purchasing oil products in the Asian-Pacific Region, a source close to the government told the Petroleum Information Agency.

The government ordinance of June 15 instructs numerous large refineries in the Russian West to earmark quotas of oil products for the Chukchi peninsula.

Experts believe that the decision to allow the Chukchi administration to sell oil products to Western Europe and to buy them abroad was made because it is cheaper to import fuel to Chukchi from abroad than from other regions of Russia.

The funds the Russian Finance Ministry raises from collecting export and import customs duties, levied on export and import of oil products earmarked for the Chukchi Autonomous Area, will be used to pay for import of these fuels into the area.

Energy Crisis Forces Shutdown of Urals Power Station

LD2406083394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0602 GMT 24 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Tkachenko]

[Text] Chelyabinsk, 24 Jun—The energy crisis in the South Urals is assuming a catastrophic scale. Chelyabinsk Oblast's second largest power station, the Yuzhnouralskaya GRES [South Urals Rayon power station], has been shut down owing to the suspension of gas supplies. Accordingly, the Uraltrak joint-stock company, the Chelyabinsk automatic engineering works, and a whole series of other large enterprises that have failed to pay their debts to the power engineers have been completely disconnected from the supply of electrical energy.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by Viktor Makhortov, chief engineer at Chelyabenergo [Chelyabinsk energy directorate], the debt is currently in excess of 400 billion rubles [R] and has grown by R50 billion in the past six months alone. At the same time, the power workers owe a total of R43 billion to Uraltrasgaz [Urals gas line]. The association's chief engineer regards the situation as deadlocked and may cause the South Urals economy to collapse. Indeed, if one imagines the electric furnaces at the huge iron-and-steel plants here being de-energized or—God forbid—the power supply to the nuclear complex being suspended, all this threatens far greater consequences than just the closure or shutdown of an engineering plant.

Commission on Nuclear Waste Arrives in Vladivostok

OW2306121794 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 1900 GMT 22 Jun 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] The international community focused its attention on problems concerning the utilization of liquid radioactive waste in the Far East yet again. An international commission comprised of leading Japanese and British experts arrived in the Maritime Kray capital today. The representative delegation is headed by Jun Yamada, deputy chief of Japanese Foreign Ministry Department of Nuclear Energy. For three days, experts will hold talks with the kray administration, specialists of the State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety, and the command of the Pacific Fleet. They will also visit the Zvezda nuclear submarine repair plant in the city of Bolshoy Kamen. The commission intends to apply conclusions drawn from the trip and propose to local authorities and fleet command methods of utilization of liquid radioactive waste.

Japan To Aid Privatization in Russian Far East

OW2306122294 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 22 Jun 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] A regional privatization voucher outlet opened in Maritime Kray center. Its main goal is extending post privatization assistance to Russian companies in Siberia and the Far East. It is largely a commercial structure, and was founded by the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development and the Japanese Foreign Ministry. Its capital of $30 million will be used to finance the vitality of investment projects. Moreover, the Japanese Government will extend assistance to the Fund for Technical Aid to the tune of $20 million. Speaking at opening of the new investment structure, Nobuachi Ito, representative of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, announced that the Land of the Rising Sun had high hopes for cooperation with enterprises of this region of Russia because the privatization program has been implemented here with the greatest degree of success. The Japanese expect a positive response from local industrialists, and hope for long-term and fruitful cooperation.

International Affairs

Radetskyy Assesses Results of Official Visit To U.S.

LD2306182294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1530 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] [Announcer] Our Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy held a news conference in Kiev today. Here is our correspondent Vasyl Kukurichka with his story.

[Kukurichka] At the news conference Vitaliy Radetskyy summed up the results of his official visit to the United States of America. As the defense minister pointed out, the visit was very rich in events and, in his opinion, it was fruitful for both sides. Ukrainian Radio World Service had informed its listeners in detail about the visit in progress, therefore, I will not repeat what has already been said about this.

So, what was the main objective of this visit, says Ukraine's Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy.

[Begin Radetskyy recording] Our delegation linked the main objective of its visit to the United States of America with the expansion and improvement of bilateral relations between the military departments, and also the fulfillment by the sides of the obligations assumed earlier. In particular, this refers to the trilateral statement by the presidents of Ukraine, the United States, and Russia; to Ukraine's nuclear disarmament and provision of relevant assistance to it. The issue on Ukraine's accession to the Partnership for Peace was considered rather extensively.

During the course of the visit the delegation visited a number of important military facilities in the United States of America and took part in several military exercises. [sentence as heard] Agreements were reached between the military departments in numerous trends of military cooperation. In connection with this, a military contacts plan was specified and complemented. In particular, the sides agreed to establish a direct telephone communication line between the ministries of both countries, and to send a group of Ukrainian Armed Forces officers to undergo studies and training at the relevant educational centers in the United States. We also agreed on naval forces, on the land-based grouping, and also on the antiaircraft forces. We will send officers there for one month or three months long training.

We agreed on a regular exchange of materials and information on military issues, on the preparation and holding of joint military exercises in 1995, and on other issues.

The fact that already, as of 30 May, the United States of America retargeted its strategic missiles, earlier targeted at Ukraine, became an outstanding event for us. We have long been waiting for this, the more so since Ukrainian missiles underwent such a procedure in December 1993. Dr. William Perry had an opportunity to satisfy himself personally, during his latest visit to Ukraine in March this year, that the process of nuclear disarmament is going on consistently and irreversibly.

In its turn, at a missile site in South Dakota, our delegation members had an opportunity to see several silos, used for intercontinental missiles of the Minuteman-2 type, that were destroyed or prepared for destruction.

The fact that we had an opportunity to immediately participate in the destruction of one of such silos was an important event. Deputy to Mr. William Perry, Dr. Carter and myself pushed the launch button and the silo ceased to exist.

Very useful was our meeting with the leaders and leading specialists of the Rand Corporation, which is one of the most important research centers in the United States in the sphere of national security and defense issues. In my speech there I set out the main provisions of the national security doctrine of the Ukrainian state within the context of new possibilities for international cooperation.

Meetings with the Ukrainian community in Chicago made an unforgettable impression on all the members of our delegation, and me personally. I felt it my duty to deliver a speech there on the general situation in Ukraine, the general problems of building its Armed Forces, the development of military cooperation, and then answered questions. Our compatriots deserve high esteem. They gave us a very good reception. They were interested in knowing everything about the developments in Ukraine. As for nostalgia, it always remains a nostalgia.

Therefore, I believe that the visit was useful for both sides. We reached such a level of understanding with the U.S. side, which gives grounds to hope for a dynamic development of mutual relations between the military departments, and for good relations between our nations in general.

[Kukurichka] That was an official assessment of the visit by Ukraine's military delegation to the United States made by Ukraine's Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy at a news conference in Kiev on 23 June. The report was filed by Vasyl Kukurichka, Radio Ukraine World Service.

Welcomes Russia's Joining Partnership Program

LD2306170494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] The Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy has welcomed Russia's joining of the NATO Partnership for Peace program. He was speaking at a news conference in Kiev on Thursday [23 June].

Concerning Ukraine's participation in the NATO program Radetskyy said that the Ukrainian army was going to participate in several NATO exercises within the framework of military cooperation. For instance, one company will take part in an exercise in the United States and one platoon will be involved in an exercise in Belgium this autumn.

Ukraine joined NATO's program last February. Radetskyy said that financial constraints were the sole brake on contacts under the Partnership for Peace plan.

Radetskyy was evasive when asked about statements by the Ukrainian parliamentary speaker that a joint command of the Ukrainian and Russian fleets in the Black Sea was a possibility.

Radetskyy believes that the Black Sea Fleet problem is the business of governments and parliaments while "the military must execute decisions made."

U.S. Embassy To Launch Economic Cooperation Programs

WS2306085194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] The Commercial Department of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine has developed four new programs, which, according to U.S. experts, will contribute to the establishment of cooperation between Ukraine and the United States. The programs concern the training of Ukrainian managers directly at U.S. companies, a search for partners for cooperation in Ukraine, and the establishment of joint ventures.

Moroz on Black Sea Fleet, Relations With CIS

LD2306171094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1628 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Kovalenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 23 Jun—Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Aleksandr Moroz has said that he sees a solution to the problem of the Black Sea Fleet in an arrangement whereby Russia and Ukraine will execute joint command of the fleet but each side would be responsible for the financial and organizational aspects of running its share of the fleet. He said so at a news conference today.

The Supreme Council head said that Ukraine's agreements with the CIS countries ought to be deepened because they are not working at the moment and no one is trying to make them work. He said he was concerned with the fact that the world community was attempting to turn Ukraine into an appendage supplying raw resources, and spoke in favor of setting up and developing self-contained production cycles in the state, which would meet Ukraine's demand for the main types of industrial products.

Naval Forces Press Center Disputes Black Sea Fleet Press

LD2206185794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1530 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—On 22 June the Ukrainian Naval Forces' press center announced that some of the mass media circulated reports by the Black Sea Fleet press center to the effect that "addressing the electorate of the city of Donetsk, Ukraine's Supreme Council Speaker Oleksandr Moroz spoke out for a single Black Sea Fleet, which should serve the interests of the fraternal peoples of Ukraine and Russia." It was also reported that Oleksandr Moroz believed the Black Sea Fleet should be commanded jointly, following NATO's example.

The Ukrainian Naval Forces' press center declares that the Black Sea Fleet press center's report grossly distorts the meaning of the statement made by Ukraine's Supreme Council chairman concerning the solution of the Black Sea Fleet issue. In Donetsk Oleksandr Moroz spoke out in favor of setting up a united command of the Ukrainian and Russian fleets on the Black Sea. At the same time he emphasized that "this command should be united, not a joint one."

The Ukrainian Naval Forces command believes that the leadership of the Black Sea Fleet thus, mistakes the wish for the reality and reiterates that the negotiating process on the Black Sea Fleet division is continuing at the governmental level at which both sides point out unequivocally that the fleet must be divided.

National Affairs

Presidential Candidates Give Campaign Addresses

Candidate Kravchuk

LD2306193594 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1620 GMT 23 jun 94

[Presidential election campaign address by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk from the Kiev studio—live]

[Text] Esteemed electors. The time allocated for our main program theses is extremely short, and I think it is impossible to go over all of them. I am sure that you have read the programs; people have made up their minds and have a good idea of the programs through the media. Yet, a few words about the main theses.

I would divide my program and my work into three conventional parts. The first part, which I call "Development," is about the development of the economy, the development of society, and the development of relations between people. If we take the economic part, it is about creating equal conditions for all businesses and creating conditions to encourage production, because everything depends on production. To that end, we have already taken and will continue to take measures to give a boost to production. At the state level, it means the introduction of a new taxation system, a new system of prices and wages, customs duties, that is, everything we refer to the macrolevel. If we take sectors of production, we are talking about priorities. I am giving the top priority to the production of food and to energy provision. Without these, the national economy will not be able to function, and human life will be doomed.

I call my next part "Establishment of law and legality in society." Until we learn to respect the law, respect the Constitution, it will be hard to gain respect for each other. At the state level, for power structures, compliance with the law is mandatory, and those who do not obey the law must face the consequences, no matter in what branch of power they belong. Every citizen must follow certain norms, must respect certain principles, and work in a legal framework. If we take the most important thing, it is protection of the individual's life from the crime world, from infringement on its freedom and rights. Here, we must act promptly, act by legal means, by means of creating a rigid system of responsibility for those who make attempts on human life and taking steps appropriate for the situation. A war has been declared on us, and we must respond appropriately.

My third part is called "Peace and Concord in Society." Life is the most important and the dearest thing to everyone, and the entire system of legal principles, all legislative processes, all laws and the entire state policy must be aimed at securing peace and concord. Concord among people within the country, which is a must, unity and understanding.

As for outside factors, our policy must be aimed at establishing friendly partnership relations with all countries of the world, especially with our neighbors, above all, with Russia. I am convinced that Ukraine's political stability, its economic progress, its national security, and the development of democracy are impossible without establishing the kind of relations with our neighbors which would ensure these basic [word indistinct] in Ukraine. But we must take steps to persuade our neighbors, including such a major neighbor as Russia, to make Ukraine one of their priority countries. This is very important. As soon as we agree on this, as soon as Ukraine's policy and the policy of our neighboring states become more predictable, as soon as they become policies of concord and respect for one another, we will definitely live in peace, friendship and harmony.

Thank you for your attention.

Candidate Kuchma

LD2306195494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1625 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Presidential election campaign address by Leonid Kuchma from the Kiev studio—live]

[Text] Esteemed electors. Every presidential candidate toured virtually all the regions of Ukraine and had many meetings with our electors. I was doing the same thing, which I am going to tell you about, about something I am today, as they say, deeply convinced of.

First. People want to have hope. They want to have hope in the future. Unfortunately, they do not have it today. People want to live so that there is order in the country and decency in all the echelons of power. Today, this is unavailable.

And, second, which is most important, actually everybody wants to live in an independent, sovereign and democratic Ukraine. But what is needed for this? For this we must create a strong economy. Because all issues dealing with science, culture and spirituality can only be solved if a strong economy is created.

If one looks today at every candidate's program, they are virtually [word indistinct]; the difference is very slight. The algorithms, as they say, of getting out of this protracted crisis are virtually the same. And I am very glad that my views one year ago and today are that the future way of our state toward a strong economy lies through a single economic space with all the republics of the former Soviet Union, including Russia. And our relations with Russia should not be maintained at the expense of our relations with other states.

In truth, our economy was developing in the former Soviet Union as a single organism, and it is from there that we receive virtually all our raw materials, and the markets for our goods are, as a matter of fact, in Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union, and if we want to be civilized in the world, among the civilized countries of the world, then, really, our state should become a civilized bridge between the countries of the West and the countries of the former Soviet Union, between the latest Western technologies and what we have today. Our economy today, as a matter of fact, cannot live in the world economic space due to our technological backwardness.

Actually, the views of all the candidates have become more or less uniform from the point of view of solving the Crimea issue, and from the point of view of the Black Sea Fleet and from the point of view of bilingualism.

I would really like us to have a conversation today in terms of concepts so that we would also have an opportunity to look at these years of our [word indistinct], of our independence and, really, to determine, at least strategically, the main thing—the way our state develops. I am convinced that we are all similar in respect to this.

Thank you. I am ready for cooperation.

Candidate Moroz

LD2306203694 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1635 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Presidential election campaign address by Oleksandr Moroz in Kiev—live]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots, esteemed comrades, and my honorable competitors: Lately we have heard so many horror stories about a change of the president leading to a civil war in Ukraine. I can only say I am an optimist and am convinced nothing grave will happen.

We shall build a strong, prosperous Ukrainian state, but only by working, being together, and not hoping for some extraordinary help. [passage omitted]

I believe the president's role must above all be to consolidate all power structures and enable the organization of power both centrally and locally. [passage omitted]

We today formed a working commission at the Supreme Council, which is to check the program of privatization and sort out who has taken what for how much and on what conditions. If someone has taken something unlawfully, they should put it back.

We have a different view on the problem of land reform. I have established this by collating positions by many of Ukraine's citizens and know that Ukrainian land must not become a commodity and must not be sold out. Otherwise, there shall be no justification for us in the future. [passage omitted]

I believe we must introduce serious changes to our state's domestic and foreign policy. I can explain the details of these changes when answering questions. I would, nevertheless, like to briefly describe the contents of two other very important key elements. One of them is the issue of international economic cooperation. It is not only with Russia that we must have good economic relations, but also with the other countries that formerly constituted the USSR and that are now our neighbors.

One more thing is to do with the independence of our Ukraine. I shall say the following, which is quite unorthodox: I believe we must have an independent Ukraine. But independence is only the state where people populating it feel independent. It is in that respect that we shall still have to do a great deal. But there will only be success if we act together, from top to bottom. So I am asking you, esteemed electors, on the evening of 26 June, to help me form the power structures that will work as a team.

Candidate Lanovyy

LD2306200094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1630 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Presidential election campaign address by Volodymyr Lanovyy in Kiev—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] I believe that the president must begin by repaying the state's debts to its people. In the first months after my election, I will conduct financial operations to compensate the population for the loss of bank savings and the devaluation of possessions. Apart from this, we will repay all debts in connection with government bonds, insurance, and payment for farm produce in 1991-93. The main focus of my activity will be economic recovery. We must give enterprises a chance to work and cancel all administrative restrictions, prohibitive taxes, licences, and quotas, which are smothering enterprises today, hiking up interest rates to unheard-of proportions, leading to a payment crisis, and bringing business to a halt. We will ensure financial stabilization in society, with stable prices, currency exchange rates, and wages. This will provide the basis for an increase in production and an increase in pay. Our calculations show that in six months after these reform measures, we will be able to raise wages four- and five-fold, taking the average wage up to the equivalent of $90-$100 monthly. [passage omitted]

We will not be able to make a move forward until we regionalize our life; that is, grant social and economic independence to oblasts, the autonomous republic of Crimea, and local authorities, both in terms of democratic self-government and necessary financial and tax opportunities, independence in regulating the investment, and production climate and foreign trade on their territory. Apart from this, we are faced with a very important task of ridding ourselves of national self-isolation we have wound up that smothers us today in economic and humanitarian terms. We must become active in international life, profit from foreign trade, and repatriate hard currency, which is currently kept abroad, depriving us of economic confidence. We must become an active participant of the political life. We will, of course, be admitted to the international community, and we will become one of the civilized nations in the world. Thank you.

Kravchuk Views Elections, Premier, Relations With Yeltsin

WS2306145094 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 18 Jun 94 pp 1,2

[Report by Mykhaylo Soroka: "Open Dialogues With People"]

[Excerpts] A day after a visit to Luxembourg, where, as everybody knows, an agreement on partnership and cooperation was signed between Ukraine and the European Union, Leonid Kravchuk visited Odessa Oblast, and on Friday—Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. [passage omitted]

Following are certain typical questions and Leonid Kravchuk's responses. [passage omitted]

[Question] Does it make sense to hold presidential elections, given the fact that decisions made by the current Supreme Council have practically reduced the president's role in the state to nothing?

[Kravchuk] I would answer this question as follows: Certain deputies' view is to make the president absent from our state's political structure. This is their right. But, while stating this, they are simultaneously voting to hold the presidential elections. Where is the logic? Now, I will really answer your question. If the election is held, and the president is elected in accordance with the current law, meaning that he is elected head of the state and executive branch, this will mean that the people have voted for a presidential-parliamentary state. This will be a peculiar referendum, confirming that the people want a president—a guarantor of independence, social protection, and the Constitution. Addressing the Supreme Council, I said that when the president is finally elected, all subsequent attempts to reduce his powers will fail, because the president will act in the name of the people. From this viewpoint, the presidential elections will make sense.

[Question] Why did you propose Vitaliy Masol for the office of prime minister, even though you had been against him prior to that?

[Kravchuk] No, I had not been against Vitaliy Masol. He was dismissed when the Soviet Union still existed, and when the Communist Party of both the Soviet Union and Ukraine was fully in power. Vitaliy Masol was then invited to the Central Committee, and it was recommended that he step down, taking the existing situation into account. He sought to obtain support outside Ukraine's borders (he can personally confirm that), but he did not find any. Thus, I was working with Vitaliy Masol, though not directly, but as the Ukrainian Supreme Council chairman. I believe that he is an educated, experienced man. His program indicates that he has altered his way of viewing Ukraine's problems and economy. I would like him to achieve everything, and that nobody hamper him. Other candidates for the office of prime minister, as far as I understood the situation, would not have been supported by the parliament. Currently, Vitaliy Masol satisfies the interests of many people.

[Question] What are your personal relations with Boris Yeltsin currently?

[Kravchuk] My relations with Boris Yeltsin are normal, just as between people who have known each other for a long time, who know their strong and weak sides, and even when it is better to phone each other. Yet, obviously, the Russian president protects the interests of Russia, because otherwise, the Russians would not need such a president. Unless the Ukrainian president protects the interests of Ukraine, defends its integrity, sovereignty, and statehood, Ukraine does need such a president either. Thus, we both protect the interests of our states. However, this protection must not lead to the suffering of both peoples. This is an art, the art of political leadership. So far, we have been successful. [passage omitted]

Interviewed on Elections

LD2306164494 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in' Ukrainian 1645 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Interview given by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; monitored in progress—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You are not only a presidential candidate, but also a person whom fate decreed to be the first president of contemporary Ukraine, a post you now hold. How would you describe the present condition of the Ukrainian state?

[Kravchuk] First, I am able to say today that this state, Ukraine, finally exists. Throughout many centuries it did not exist, and now it is here on the world map, recognized by the world community. It is a fact. It is the result of the great effort of our people, our parliament, our president, our government and all the power structures. [passage indistinct] We have the will of the people, we have the laws reflecting this will, and we have the efforts of the president and other power structures to implement this course. It is difficult indeed. We, and the people, can see that. But we can sincerely say that nobody in the world can hope to cover this road with ease. [passage indistinct]

[Correspondent] What in Ukraine's present condition worries you most? And what do you think must be done to improve that condition?

[Kravchuk] The hardships are of a both objective and subjective nature. What worries me most is the hardships in the economic system and the economy in general, the decline in living standards. The first thing we must do is stabilize production. The next thing is to do all in our power to give it a boost. This is the basic and all-determining factor, because this is the basis of all our future steps, be it to safeguard social security, or, for example, to raise pay in the Army, which we must do and will do at any cost—to provide officers with housing and raise their pay—or to improve the financial status of the vulnerable strata—pensioners, the disabled, and many other categories of people here who need this kind of improvement to secure them a more or less acceptable lifestyle. This is the main thing. How can it be done? There are ways to do this. There are programs both in the government and in the Supreme Council, and I hope they will be eventually approved; mechanisms will be worked out, and we will find the resources to do it and to move forward.

There is also the political situation. We need to overcome the differences in the existing views of our economic and political development. This is a must. We must be united in our need to develop, to overcome the obstacles and to move forward.

Regrettably, however, everything is being done to make us fall out [words indistinct] to find differences between the president, the prime minister and the chairman of the Supreme Council. I can see now how the press is attempting to do this. [passage omitted] Today, however, there is another danger, (?you know), in that a (?certain) part of the leftist forces is giving in to (?wicked malice), [words indistinct] in Donetsk and Lugansk oblasts, and everything repeats itself (?once again). At the beginning, there were (?just a few people) demanding a Nuerenberg process to try the Communist Party. I had to make the greatest effort to ward this off, excuse me, legal Bacchanalia. We averted it, prevented it, and no heads rolled. Right now, it appears, yet another victimization is being called for, now of (?the other) side. I was simply terrified to listen [words indistinct] to a group present in that hall. You may have (?already) heard [words indistinct] in Donetsk oblast. [Passage indistinct]. So there is (?a danger), a threat—(?as long as there are those forces)—there simply is a threat of losing statehood and, most importantly, democracy. [Words indistinct] and (?those methods) have nothing in common with democracy.

So I would just like to appeal to the electorate (?and all) to stop that Bacchanalia and restrain the people on either side making an attempt on the sacrosanctity of democracy and statehood, for it is the people themselves who (?in the long run) will be taken hostage of all this. We have already seen this. We already (?know) this. So (?we should avert) this danger.

So, there is both some progress, there is the state, state establishments and certain basis of what has already been done, and there are forces [words indistinct] fighting for power can lead to the irreparable. So we at all costs will have to stop extremism (?in all its manifestations) on either side and prevent any, I would like to emphasize, any attempt on democracy and our state, because there is, I would like to repeat, that threat.

[Correspondent] [Passage indistinct]

[Kravchuk] I agree. There should be stable laws and a well- established constitution corresponding with the changes that have taken place, and a stable [word indistinct]. That is a must. For example, government is a problem for us [words indistinct] changes to parliamentary elections because there are (?some difficulties) in that the laws and the constitution do not agree with each other, a disagreement which makes it possible to initiate constant changes accordingly, that (?affect the stability) of government. I agree with that.

That problem, however, is not just a matter of personalities. It once again has to do with the Constitution and the laws, i.e., the basis that was defined and supported by the people and tolerates no such changes.

[Correspondent] Leonid Makarovych, my understanding is that today you will do without electoral promises.

[Kravchuk] [Passage indistinct] Second, I will certainly do whatever I can in order to prevent a conflict between Ukraine and other states, for Ukraine never to be the first to take any action aimed at an attempt on human life, war or threat [words indistinct]. Clearly, (?quite another) matter is someone coming and trying, let us say, to suppress us. Any state and any people would protect themselves. That, however, would be protection rather than aggression by us.

As for (?an empire), I have already addressed that question and would really like it never to re-emerge. To achieve that, however, we need to (?do everything we are doing), laying the foundation of our peaceful, democratic and well-considered policy, good-neighborliness and partnership for us to move forward. Life goes on. There will be new people coming to power, while that which we are doing today and the foundation we are laying today is to continue. [Passage indistinct].

I believe [words indistinct] our wealth and achievements that we have secured in the time that has passed (?since independence). (?I belive) that Ukraine will resolve any problems [words indistinct].

Notes Left-Wing 'Threat' to Democracy

LD2306160394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 23 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky; Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] According to Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk, a threat to democracy in Ukraine stems from some increasingly aggressive left-wing forces.

In a televised address Wednesday [29 June] night, he denounced what he described as madness in Ukraine and called for efforts in support of democracy in the Republic.

He also warned that the struggle for power in Ukraine could lead to disaster and called for an end to extremism.

He emphasized that Ukraine was pursuing the course, chosen at the referendum of 1 December 1991, when more than 90 pct of Ukraine's citizens favored independence.

Kravchuk said he believes there is nothing more important than to create an incentive for production and development.

At the same time, he regretted that no effort was currently being spared to set the top bodies of power at loggerheads and find contradictions between the president, the premier, and the parliament's speaker.

Woos Voters With Switch to Economic Issues

MK2306104594 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 4

[Report by Natalya Kalashnikova: "Situation in Ukraine. Leonid Kravchuk: The Last Dash—to the East"]

[Text] The closer we get to the finishing line of the election race in Ukraine, the clearer it becomes that the only hot favorites are Leonid Kravchuk and Leonid Kuchma, who enjoy the affection of the Republic's west and east. It is not impossible that the "in-between" position of Crimea may prove decisive in this politico-geographical polarization of opinions. As for Yuriy

Meshkov, he has again demonstrated his skill at vanishing from his native climes at the right time, once again provoking Kravchuk into sharp actions in Crimea. The expectations of the Simferopol president may, however, not be vindicated: It is mainly the Kiev president who has until recently been scoring points out of confrontation.

Much as KOMMERSANT-DAILY supposed on 21 June, Kravchuk could not resist the temptation to capitalize on the absence of Meshkov, who left for Geneva at a crucial moment with no special objective. Yesterday Kiev already announced the annulment (by Kravchuk's edict) of Meshkov's edicts of 4 May "On Items in Republic of Crimea Ownership" and "On the Privatization of State-Owned Enterprises of the Republic of Crimea" as "not being in line with Ukraine's legislation." This is just one of the signs of the Ukraine president's sudden attention to economic questions. This same election race should perhaps be seen as the reason for Kravchuk's turn toward the economy: His rival, Kuchma, has a special liking for the economy, on which he builds his campaign.

Kravchuk's economic breakthrough has touched on rather delicate matters. Having shown an inclination to break down customs barriers with the European Community (as part of the partnership agreement he signed the other day), the president nevertheless decided to beef up the customs service with respect to Russia. Kravchuk's reasons (he shared them with the workers of the "Azovmash" joint-stock company in Mariupol) boil down to the phrase: "It pains me when the country is being hurt." The president remarked: "It is inadmissible that the already none too rich Ukraine's market should be laid waste. If the border were now opened, a considerable proportion of consumer goods and agricultural produce would be carted away to Russia." And this is true: You need only look at the rugged rows of Ukrainian shuttle traders outside the Kievskiy rail terminal in Moscow who exchange fatback at almost dumping prices for the Russian ruble, which is a picture of health (compared to the Ukrainian karbovanets). By his other edict the president demanded that Ukrainian producers declare, within 10 days flat, their hard currency in a bid to stem its outflow from the Republic. That is to say, he has thrown down the gauntlet to Kuchma. Now Kravchuk, known in the western regions as a "guarantor of the independence of a united and indivisible Ukraine," has a chance to melt the hearts of the promarketeers even in the eastern lands, which are Kuchma's turf. In fact, "eastern" coal miners and steelworkers were rewarded the other day with edicts solving their financial problems.

'Ukraine' Democrats To Back Kravchuk for President

LD2306180694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1710 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent viktor demidenko, mikhail melnik]

[Text] Kiev 23 June TASS—In the run up to presidential elections in Ukraine, Ukrainian democrats decided to close their ranks in order to back presidential candidate Leonid Kravchuk. Chairman of the "Ukraine" democratic association, Dmitriy Pavlychko, said that the "Ukraine" wants Leonid Kravchuk to remain in the post of the Ukrainian president.

Public opinion polls show that Kravchuk enjoys the support of 62 per cent of Ukrainian women, 42 per cent of rural residents and 90 per cent of the population of Ukraine's western regions. However, Kravchuk's rating in the east and the south is not so high. However, experts reminded of the fact that during the first presidential elections Kravchuk had won with only a 10 per cent rating in his favour reported in the Galichina region.

Observers noted that Kravchuk's popularity has been growing in recent weeks. Primarily, this can be accounted for by his decision on the indexation of the population's deposits in saving banks, the allocation of 40 million karbovanets for the organisation of summer vacation of children from low-income families, taking currency back to Ukraine, signing an agreement on partnership and cooperation between Ukraine and EC.

Representatives of the old generation welcomed the election of Vitaliy Masol to the post of the premier, whose candidacy had been suggested by the president. Political experts believe that Kravchuk is such a clever politician that he would manage to win over to his side 18 per cent of electors ho had not decided yet for whom they would vote in the elections.

Kravchuk Continues To Receive Best Rating in Opinion Polls

LD2306185394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1735 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Of all of Ukraine's presidential candidates Leonid Kravchuk continues to receive the best rating, which has remained unchanged over the past week. Thirty percent of voters in 24 regions of Ukraine and in Crimea intend to vote for him.

An opinion poll by Kiev's International Sociology Institute and the Sociology Chair of the Kievo-Mogilyanskaya Akademiya University has found Kravchuk has 1 percent more support than in the previous poll of 6-10 June.

Leonid Kuchma lost 1 percent of the votes since that time—he still has the support of 22 percent of the electorate.

Eleven percent intend to vote for A. Moroz (against 9 percent in the previous poll). The electorate's support for the other candidates is distributed as follows: V. Lanovoi—8 percent (earlier 6 percent), I. Plushch—3 percent (earlier 4 percent), V. Babich—1.2 percent (earlier 1 percent), and P. Talanchuk—0.5 percent (earlier 1 percent).

Ten percent of those polled are against all candidates and 15 percent are undecided yet.

Kuchma Outlines 'Vision of Ukraine'

WS2306143094 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 17 Jun 94 p 5

[Article by Leonid Kuchma, Ukrainian people's deputy and presidential candidate: "Ukraine As I See It"]

[Text] I am often asked: What is my vision of Ukraine?

I will answer laconically: I see Ukraine as an independent and prosperous state ruled by law and order, by decency and professionalism.

Only such societies are viable, in which human dignity is the highest criterion. The level of civilization in such societies is determined by their attitude toward their own history, regardless of how tragic that history may be.

We will not be given another version of history. The most grave sin is to mock the memory of past generations for the sake of a momentary political gain.

The biblical story of Ham, who was damned for his disrespect for his father in a moment of weakness, can be applied at any time. The same refers to the simultaneously blessed Japhet and Shem, who "turned their faces so that they would not see their father's nakedness."

My concern for Ukraine is not a concern for antiquated things, Cossack's breeches, and parochialism; it is a problem of making fresh gains—from declared "independenceness" [nezalezhnitsvo] to economic self-sufficiency which is a prerequisite for safeguarding our real sovereignty. To accomplish this task, I formulate my program according to the principle paraphrased in John Kennedy's well-known statement: "Ask not what Ukraine can do for you; ask what you can do for Ukraine."

I know that—owing to some "knights of the pen," who "neatly" extracted one convenient phrase out of context—I am being portrayed as an unsuccessful prime minister who, so to say, has been trying to clarify for a long time exactly what type of society we shall build. In the end, he resigned without having grasped anything. Nothing could be further from the truth!

It was not up to the prime minister, but up to the Supreme Council to determine the model of society we wish to build. The president had to say his meaningful word, too. The prime minister, as chief executive, had to be only informed of the general doctrine. The law is the law—the activity of every branch has to be performed within the limits of their plenary powers.

Every epoch—especially an interim one—should have its philosophical concept and principles. Without these principles, government activities transform themselves into a daily routine of "trial and error." Furthermore, the people can become a nation only if they are united by a common idea, if they are assured of their historical destiny. This should have been determined immediately and without delay.

The traditions of our society and the conclusions of our leading sociologists should have also been taken into account. Our sociologists conclude that our people, as a whole, are deprived of national consciousness. They have no clear social direction for the future. Their new ideal, a strategic goal, is proposed primarily by making comparisons with other, more prosperous countries. Unfortunately, this is not done on the basis of their own historical experience. Ukraine, yet again in its tragic history, has come to a crossroads.

That national ideal, which was proposed on 1 December 1991, exhausted itself the very next day. Still, it was formulated precisely: independence and separation from Moscow.

What next?

What form of government should we adopt: presidential or parliamentary? What state: unitarian or federal? What final form of social, political, and economic system is desired by Ukraine? What role in the production process has to be granted to private business, the state, and corporate entities? Which model of social protection and market regulations is more attractive? Will Ukraine maintain (and if the answer is "yes," then by what means) its orientation toward socialist values (which have become an everyday reality in the majority of EC countries), or, on the contrary, will it gravitate toward the system of capitalist competition, of which the United States is a model?

These questions cannot be avoided.

All these options were endlessly and fruitlessly argued. In the end, a state of uncertainty prevailed. At best, this uncertainty bears witness to intellectual weakness and professional incompetence of the ruling elite. At worst, it was the consequence of direct sabotage on the part of certain forces seeking to fish in murky waters.

Some high officials of the ruling elite tried to compensate for their lack of constructive ideas by forcing conflicts concerning problems arising between former USSR countries over territorial and military issues. It was the time when the imperial itching had just started to develop in our neighbor country. For some time, external factors drew public opinion away from internal problems, but it has only reaped dubious dividends. This was not a "horse" on which we could ride into the world community.

Valuable time was being lost, while our young Ukrainian statehood was sucked more and more into the whirlpool of economic crisis imported, to a great extent, from the "Gaydarized" [pun on Russia's former prime minister name] Russia by Ukrainian supporters of the IMF model. The content and direction of the IMF model is intended to bring the technologically backward countries of the former USSR into the global market after the devastation of all their enterprises and branches capable of competition with Western firms. Regions of the former USSR were to produce only those commodities which were disadvantageous for the West (due to their lack of profit potential or lack of raw materials) or undesirable due to environmental reasons. Ukraine was to assume the role of Europe's backyard.

The former Soviet nomenklatura, which had come into power in the newly created republics along with "businessmen" of the shadow economy, supported this model joyously, seeing an opportunity to "grabatize" statehood and share it with foreigners. Millions of working people were facing, after the abolishment of collective exploitation by the CPSU nomenklatura, the "bright" prospect of working for the new masters of appropriated enterprises. The ruling elite of the newly created states were to protect the newly born capitalism by means of severe restrictive measures until nouveau riches would be so efficient as to pay decent wages for their employees. However, how long would it take for our "wild capitalism" to assume a "humane face?!"

The model of forced liberalization, which was thrust on us by the West, ignored the fact that mass bankruptcies can trigger a social explosion. Now, workers are facing only one alternative—to become either nationalist extremists or leftist radicals. This is already a dangerous thing. Today's society is showing signs of hysteria on the one hand, and decline, apathy, and even doom—on the other.

Does one need any other evidence of a catastrophic situation of our society in addition to widely known facts testifying to the polarization of wealth and misery? If so, then let us take a look around: A blind desire to get rich and the bustling activity of mainly professionally incompetent people, who attempt to rule the state and build the market, are introducing chaos and profanity into society. Variations of this profanity could be heard in the arias of "the Varangian guest" on the attractiveness of an absolutely free society, in which the state assumes only the role of a "night watchman." It is high time to start living by our own wits, because overseas "well-wishers" take care of their own interests first.

Ukraine has to rely more on its own resources, proceeding from the fact that one year (and, all the more, 11 months when I was prime minister) is not enough time for a minimal stabilization period.

To put an end to general disintegration and pilfering, we should realize the following (and this is supported by the experience of those countries which have overcome their low level of social differentiation and specialization): The state will be forced to use stringent measures for securing law and order, as well as legal sanctions against those violating the "rules of the game" established by the state in the realm of business, the pilfering of national wealth, and neglecting the norms of social life.

Let us not forget that habitual, moral, and legal regulators in force in developed Western countries were attained over the course of many centuries.

Thus, the minimum program for Ukraine consists of the implementation of a "social state" doctrine oriented toward overcoming social erosion and the structural ambiguity of society. The emphasis is being placed here on safeguarding equal rights for all sectors of the economy—private, cooperative, state, and corporate—along with guarantees for the essential needs of citizens in the sphere of health care, education, and pensions.

The building of the "social market economy" is a program of the utmost importance for Ukraine, which will be carried out simultaneously with the view for a more stable period, following the creation of conditions for efficient economic activities of the people who have already acquired necessary commercial, professional, and other habits after the narcosis of totalitarianism.

Thus, the key issue today is not that of a social ideal, but of a concrete model for social relations during the stabilization period. Taking into account the fact that a split with society along the "socialism-capitalism" line again looms, the issue should be shifted from the "either-or" opposition to the personal level. People who adhere to some principle or another should have the freedom of choice within the borders of one state, just as it is in China (one state, but two social systems) or, for instance, in Israel (private sector, but also collective farms—kibbutzzim).

We should make our way into a new system of coordinates: We have lived, and we will continue to live, in the immediate future under the circumstances of a multisystem society with private (domestic as well as foreign) and other (state, corporate, and cooperative) sectors on the principles of equal rights for all forms of property. The interests of these systems will be defended by political parties which, in the end, will find their social basis. A democratic state, oriented toward the social protection of its citizens, will assume the role of a director in the competition of social groups; it will be also authorized to soften the ruthlessness and anarchy of the market in the period of initial capital accumulation.

In the private sector, where the efficiency of labor is higher (as well as the exploitation of hired workers), wages will be higher, as well. At state enterprises, work will be easier and the level of social protection will be higher, but wages—lower. This does not represent any discrimination, because even in the most democratic societies people are born with equal rights, but with different possibilities, talents, and capabilities of intensive work. One thing must be guaranteed—the man should have the right to choose, while the state has to safeguard this right in all its aspects.

Such an idea of Ukraine's own way can be productive during an interim, stabilization period, when the idea of socialism has already lost its former charm, whereas the idea of capitalism still looms. However, one should take pains to prevent this idea from assuming a grotesque "all-Ukrainian" form, which would evoke a negative reaction on the part of other ethnic groups in our state and discredit the Ukrainian idea in general.

We should get rid of that peculiar complex of isolationism and mistaken treatment of independence, which were born by the long period when our national pride was hurt. We should get rid of that "independenceness" which continues to fence us off from the world with a wall of parochial egoism and spiritual outmodedness. It is necessary to make way for a qualitatively new level of consciousness of a statesman advocating independence—this man should not be afraid of self-realization in the processes of global and regional integration in the sphere of business, social activity, and culture.

Only the implementation of the slogan "Ukraine without hirelings is a Ukraine of proprietors" can, in the end, safeguard decency and order in the privatization process, and henceforth—trust in the forces of our people and the might of our state. It has already become proverbial that the foundation of any state is, in the first place, the so-called middle class.

These circumstances will not be created by themselves, whereas the inactivity of the state, incapable of choosing its own course, as we all see, leads to social chaos. The signs of a catastrophic situation of the Ukrainian economy are increasing in number; this jeopardizes the political gains of independence and the very possibility of advancing toward a civilized society. The situation of a "wild market," in which, owing to financial machinations, "fat cats" are making their fortunes, is a challenge for the worker who attaches the improvement of living to honest and competent work as well as to the desire to live in a society guided by human values.

Ukraine can be led out of the crisis only by millions of farmers, workers of industry, health care, science, education, and culture, as well as by civilized entrepreneurs whose honest work should have been morally and materially stimulated by the state long ago. For the time being, the reforms have not activated this principal source of national revival; they did not produce a stimuli for investments in the development of production as well as in undertaking activities in industry; they did not persuade common people to work honestly and with full commitment.

This is why I do not have the least doubt that wide segments of the population will support the slogan of "law and order." Moreover, to clamber out of the abyss of Mafia-like anarchy, the people will demand the introduction of firmer forms of state life with a high level of personalized responsibility at all levels of power.

Such is the demand of the interim period.

Without safeguarding these circumstances, there will be no civilized Ukraine. This has been, and remains, my stance.

27 Constituencies Formed for Presidential Election

LD2306201294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Twenty-seven election districts and 33,653 polling stations have been formed in Ukraine for the presidential election. The electorate register contains almost 38 million people. Seven candidates are running for office, said the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, Ivan Yemets, at a news conference on 23 June.

Presidential Election Broadcast by Candidate Moroz

LD2306153994

[Editorial Report] Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian at 1200 GMT on 23 June broadcasts a 16-minute election broadcast by Oleksandr Moroz, chairman of the Supreme Council and candidate in the presidential elections. He begins by asking listeners to vote for the candidate who spoke the truth irrespective of whether it is convenient or not. He says that he has never changed his views for the sake of personal gain.

Speaking about the kind of state he wants to build, Oleksandr Moroz says: "We should build a strong, flourishing, and democratic state in which its citizens will be proud of their citizenship regardless of where they are. This will not be easy, because all the negative things that you are experiencing in your lives are proof of the complexity of the matter. We are talking about the poverty that is being felt today by the majority of the population, the crippled fate of many people, the disrespect on the part of the state toward veterans, pensioners, those who fought in the war, and invalids. I experienced these difficulties over the course of many years and would like to say that the highest officials in the state should care first and foremost for those people who cannot look after themselves."

He goes on to say that as regards the others the state should create the right conditions for them to be able to realize their potential. He says that the majority of people do not have this possibility: "This means that the policy of the state's development, which the authorities chose in the last few years, has not completely corresponded to the interests of the people. I would even say that it does not correspond to the interests of the people to an even bigger extent, and undoubtedly this policy must be changed."

Speaking on the economy, Oleksandr Moroz said that priority must be given to restructuring and to encouraging enterprises to produce for export as well as to produce goods for the population: "You will agree with me that today such goods are food products." He added that the right infrastructure must also be created. He makes a special appeal to Ukraine's youth, students, and young people in general: "It is not easy for you today. There is an easy temptation to go into business, to make some money, and by doing so to support one's independence economically. It is possible to understand you because the state created no other conditions, but it should create them in order for you to be guaranteed your independence for your entire lives and not only in this difficult stage of transition. This guarantee should be based on new jobs, new labor relations, and on the opportunity to earn a living worthy of you."

Moroz says that during his election campaign he has visited many enterprises and organizations and was asked the same question everywhere which was difficult to reply to: "This question is connected with whether there will be work for tomorrow, why are enterprises stopping production, how can one live on such a paltry wage, will apartments be built, will the housing waiting lists be made longer or will they be reduced, will there be social guarantees for free education, labor, health care, cultural achievements, and so on and so forth? People are worried by simple everyday problems and it is difficult for me to give a reply today but the state must reply to these questions because otherwise there will be no trust in the state."

Speaking on the Chernobyl problem, Oleksandr Moroz says it is not simply a Ukrainian problem but a problem for the whole world. On nuclear weapons he says: "We gave a unique example to the world of how to solve the problem of civilization. We are the only country in the world, throughout its history, that took specific steps to reduce military security, particularly nuclear security."

Concluding his election broadcast on Ukrainian radio, Oleksandr Moroz says: "I hope that those who are still undecided today will not be frightened by my views or by my candidacy. Dear compatriots, what I support today I supported two and even three years ago. What I warned you against has now become reality and you see it around you and in your families. This should elicit fear and some thoughts as to which candidate to support. On 26 June we are not just electing a president. Look at who is fighting for deputies' mandates at the local level, at rayon and oblast councils, and the city of Kiev and why." He adds: "Think before you cast your vote and come without fail to the elections. It is an exceptionally important matter for society. Once again I would like to stress that I believe that we will build a strong Ukrainian state which is respected in the world, but in order to do this we need a joint political will and a desire to work together, an understanding that we are all equal, that we have one motherland and that we can only build it if we build it for all who live here."

Democrats Protest Removal of Names From Electoral Lists

LD2306104994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Sumy [no date as received]—An unprecedented incident has taken place here: five days before the elections Vasyl Spivak, head of the district electoral committee for the election of chairmen and deputies to the oblast council, informed Viktor Kazban, chairman of the oblast's "Prosvita" organization, that he is cancelling a decision by the [electoral] commission to register 30 candidates from this organization as deputies to the oblast council.

The formal reason for this is a letter from Konotop in which the author, indignant that "Prosvita" is supporting a Jew by nationality as a candidate in the elections to the oblast council, demanded that the district commission check the accuracy of the nomination of all the candidates in general. Having demanding all the documents in general from "Prosvita", not only those concerning the nomination of candidates but those dating back to the time when the organization was founded, Vasyl Spivak found some violations, in particular that some adopted changes had not been written in the organization's statute. On this basis, he issued an instruction to the polling station commissions to delete the "Prosvita" candidates from the ballot forms.

The oblast "Prosvita" organization and all national democratic parties sent letters of protest to the oblast procuracy and demanded that Vasyl Spivak annul the illegal instruction. The statement from the national democratic forces in Sumy oblast reads that if he refuses, they will reserve the right to turn for help to all national democratic forces in Ukraine as well as to resort to actions of civil disobedience. [passage omitted]

Meshkov Says MP's Embarked on 'Road of Confrontation'

LD2406002494 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2055 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Simferopol, 23 June—The session of the Supreme Council of Crimea continued its work. The deputies considered a series of decrees by the president of Crimea on transferring the property of the Republic of Crimea under the jurisdiction of the government. The majority of the deputies criticized these decrees saying that they go contrary to the legislation of Crimea and Ukraine. Crimean Communists' leader Leonid Hrach accused Crimea's President Yuriy Meshkov of his desire to "pay for the victory at the elections with the property of Crimea and involve people in a war among the mafia clans." On the other side, Crimea's President Yuriy Meshkov and his supporters at the Supreme Council demanded that the members of parliament "fulfill people's will," that the decrees be approved and no obstacles be put in the way of the executive authorities. The proposed variant of the resolution did not receive the sufficient number of votes during the voting and was sent to be wored up.

After this the deputies considered the draft law "On the Fulfillment of the Constitution and the Laws of the Republic of Crimea." The discussion of this issue evoked a negative response on the part of Yuriy Meshkov. Since the draft law seriously restricted the plenary powers of the president of Crimea, Yuriy Meshkov declared that part of the deputies had an intention "to embark of the road of confrontation between the Supreme Council and the president." During the voting this draft law also failed to receive the sufficient number of votes and was sent to be worked up.

Afterwards the deputies adopted "a resolution on measures to stabilize agriculture in Crimea in 1994 and 1995 and on the program for reforming the agro-industrial complex of Crimea." A commission was formed at the session to study the issue on the status of the city of Sevastopol. At the end of the sitting a whole number of deputies criticized president Yuriy Meshkov for his tactlessness and insults to the deputies during the session.

The next sitting of the Supreme Council of Crimea will take place on 29 June.

Crimean Deputies Seek To Strip Meshkov of Powers

LD2306171794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] President of Crimea Yuriy Meshkov has described as unacceptable and provocative parliamentary discussions of a bill intended to suspend the presidency law until a local Constitutional Court has been formed.

The bill put on the agenda of a parliamentary session in Simferopol on Thursday [23 June] follows a resolution of 14 June stating that many of the president's decrees were out of line with Crimean legislation.

Speaking in parliament, Meshkov said the Supreme Soviet was out for a stand off with the president under the mask of demands for compliance with the Constitution and laws. He said the current situation was far too serious to raise the question of stripping him of presidential powers.

Meshkov sees the parliament's action as an attempt to try to put itself above the people of Crimea who elected him as head of state in keeping with the Constitution.

However, the deputies are most likely to pass the law, albeit in a softer form, leader of the Crimean Tatars' faction in parliament Refat Chubarov told INTERFAX-Ukraine. He described what was happening as an attempt by the Russia faction which backed up Meshkov during the presidential election to put him in his place.

As discussion continues, a conciliatory group was elected to work out a final resolution.

Kuchma Urges 'Self-Critical' Approach to Crimea

PM2406091594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24-27 Jun 94 p 2

[Interview with former Ukrainian prime minister Leonid Kuchma by Albert Nechiporenko; place and date not given: "Nothing to Choose Between the Languages. Leonid Kuchma on the Crimea Problem"]

[Text] On the eve of the presidential election in Ukraine, former premier Leonid Kuchma's ratings are rising rapidly. Would-be voters are attracted by his program's specific proposals on most of the problems of concern to Ukrainian citizens. Including his proposals on the Crimea issue.

[Nechiporenko] Leonid Danilovich, events in and around the Crimea are threatening to scupper peace in Ukraine. What is your opinion of the Crimean conflict?

[Kuchma] Many people are trying to present the Crimea's desire for independence as a consequence of the activity of pro-Russian political forces in the region. Undoubtedly, such forces do exist there. But it is an intolerable oversimplification to reduce everything to a question of how much effort is put in. After all, the elections for the president and the Crimean Supreme Council showed that most of the population support the Crimean leadership's current policy and its desire to solve its problems independently.

[Nechiporenko] What is the main cause of the increased tension in the Crimea?

[Kuchma] I am profoundly convinced that the tension over the peninsula is being fed by the general crisis in Ukraine. We have to be self-critical enough to declare the two main factors which are pushing the Crimea away from Ukraine:

The first is the self-destruction of the Ukrainian economy.

The second factor is the politics. If we do not accept regional bilingualism and if we fail to halt the national radicalization of history, art, and education, then we will have some acute conflicts in other parts of Ukraine as well....

Chairmanship of Black Sea Assembly To Be Assumed

WS2406091694 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Our correspondent has met at Boryspil airport with a Ukrainian parliamentary delegation headed by Oleksandr Tkachenko, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council. The Ukrainian parliamentarians returned today after participating in a session of the Black Sea Parliamentary Assembly in Bucharest. Among those who met the delegation at the airport was Romanian Ambassador to Ukraine Ion Bistreanu. Now, let us listen to an interview with Oleksandr Mykolayovych Tkachenko, conducted immediately after the delegation's arrival.

[Begin Tkachenko recording] The assembly of nine European and Asian states aims at uniting their efforts after the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance ceased to exist. We believe that Ukraine has made a correct step by joining the Black Sea Assembly. The topics discussed at this session, and it was already the third one, primarily concerned economic issues, as well as the role and place of Ukraine among other states [words indistinct]. The third topic discussed concerned cultural and social ties among our states. In addition to these nine states, Bulgaria and Greece were invited to participate in the Black Sea Assembly session as observers, and we believe that they will join this organization in the near future.

We believe that the Ukrainian delegation accomplished its mission, because we defended our position, which envisions that the next assembly session will be chaired by Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz. [Words indistinct] Ukraine will be chairing the assembly during this period. [end recording]

Masol Views Cooperation With West, Russia, Trade Unions

WS2306142994 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 21 Jun 94 p 1

[Interview with Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol by attributed VYBIR correspondent; place and date not given: "It Is Worthless Waiting for a Miracle"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [VYBIR] Will Ukraine sign an agreement on economic union [with Russia]?

[Masol] All states sign certain agreements on economic unions or common markets. I want to state that we will not be able to live and work without a common market.

[VYBIR] Thus, will Ukraine be an associate or full member of the European Union?

[Masol] Let us put it differently. To buy energy resources and other products in Russia, we should also sell something there. You can refer to this as you want—even as an economic union. [passage omitted]

[VYBIR] Who is our main partner in the West?

[Masol] These are Germany, France, Great Britain, and Austria. We should have friendly relations with all Western countries, provided they are interested in developing mutually beneficial relations with us. [passage omitted]

[VYBIR] What is your attitude toward free trade unions?

[Masol] There must be trade unions. Yet, they should keep in mind that the most important thing is that everyone works. People must work and earn money. However, if trade unions only take care of wages, it will be hard to reach an understanding.

Belarus

No Winners in Presidential Elections; 2d Round in Jul

LD2406050194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0337 GMT 24 Jun 94

[From BELINFORM by a TASS correspondent]

[Text] Minsk, 24 June—It has not been possible to reveal who will be the first president of the Republic of Belarus: Such are the preliminary results of the first round of the elections which took place on Thursday [23 June].

And even though the final data will be received later it can already be said now that Aleksandr Lukashenko who collected 44-45 percent of the vote is more than twice ahead of his main competitor Vyacheslav Kebich (18-19 per cent). The other candidates rank in the following order: Zenon Poznyak, Stanislav Shushkevich, Aleksandr Dubo, and Vasiliy Novikov, with the leader of the Belarusian People's Front Zenon Poznyak having approximately five percent less votes than V.Kebich.

Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission Aleksandr Abramovich said that for the time being three dates for the second round are being discussed: 7, 10, or 17 July 1994. In accordance with the legislation, Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vyacheslav Kebich will be permitted to take part in this round.

No Candidate Gains Majority of Votes

LD2306223094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2149 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent Vladimir Glod—TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 24 June [date as received]— More than 77 percent of the electorate took part in the presidential elections in the Republic of Belarus. Announcing the first preliminary information to a BELINFORM correspondent, the Republic's central electoral commission made one thing clear: One can conclude from the data coming in that none of the candidates has secured the necessary number of votes.

At present, one can only talk of an indicated preference for two candidates: About 30-32 percent voted for Aleksandr Lukashenko, and 24-26 percent voted for Vyacheslav Kebich. The remaining four candidates lag significantly behind, and the order of preference for them is: Zenon Poznyak, Stanislav Shushkevich, Vasiliy Novikov, and Aleksandr Dubko.

The highest voter activity was recorded in Brest oblast, where over 83 percent of the eligible citizens went to the polling stations. The most passive people were in Minsk, where the figure was 69.3 percent.

The central electoral commission expects to give the preliminary results at about 0700 [0300 GMT] in the morning, Moscow time.

Lukashenka, Kebich Face Runoff

WS2406091494 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 0800 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] None of the candidates in yesterday's presidential elections received the necessary number of votes—50 percent of all votes cast—to achieve an outright victory and become president of Belarus. However, two candidates—who will continue their battle for the presidential post in a second round of voting—have been specified. They are People's Deputy Alyaksandr Lukashenka, former chairman of the legislative anticorruption commission, and Belarusian Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich. Alyaksandr Lukashenka was the obvious leader in yesterday's presidential race—he received some 2,659,409 votes—45.1 percent. Vyachaslaw Kebich received 17.4 percent of the vote (1,025,732 votes). Zyanon Paznyak, leader of the opposition Belarusian Popular Front faction in the legislature, received 12.9 percent (757,586 votes), former Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislaw Shushkevich—9.9 percent (584,604 votes), Alyaksandr Dubko, chairman of the Belarusian Union of Kolkhozes—6 percent (356,222 votes), and [Vasyl Novikaw], cochairman of the Communist Party of Belarus—4.6 percent.

BELAPAN draws attention to the fact that these are preliminary results, subject to change, however, not considerably. All in all, 5,870,055 voters participated in the elections. The total number of eligible voters in Belarus is 7,457,939. At a briefing held this morning, Alyaksandr Abramovich, chairman of the Central Commission for Presidential Elections, predicts the need to hold a second round of voting. According to him, the final results of the 23 June vote will likely be announced on 30 June. The second round of presidential elections will be held no later than 14 days after the results of the first round are officially announced.

73 Percent of Voters Cast Ballots

LD2306200994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1914 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent—TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 23 June—A BELINFORM correspondent was told by the Central Electoral Commission that as of 1900, 73 percent of the voters had participated in the elections for the country's first president. The highest turnout in the secret ballot was among the residents of Brest Oblast, with 78.7 percent having cast their votes. In some rayons of the oblast the turnout reached 86-87 percent of the total electorate. The lowest turnout was in the capital, where only 64.4 percent of the electorate had voted by 1900 local time. Some 356 polling stations finished their work ahead of the deadline.

Central Electoral Commission Deems Elections Valid

WS2306133994 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Report by Ivan Hladkin from the Central Electoral Commission]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] I want to make all our listeners happy by telling them that according to preliminary calculations just provided by the Central Electoral Commission, the presidential elections in Belarus have taken place. In Belarus in general, 63.6 percent of electors cast their votes by 1200 GMT. Turnover was highest in Brest Oblast—70.3 percent; in Vitebsk Oblast—64.4 percent; in Gomel Oblast—65.4 percent; in Grodno Oblast—63.8 percent; in Mogilev Oblast—64.4. percent; in Minsk Oblast—65 percent; in the city of Minsk—53 percent. In the Republic in general, elections have been completed at 240 polling stations. [passage omitted]

Supreme Soviet Chairman on Elections, NATO, Economy

WS2306114494 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 23 Jun 94 pp 1, 22

[Interview with Supreme Soviet Chairman Myacheslaw Hryb, by Joanna Boczkowska-Crettenand; place and date not given: "Today Presidential Elections in Belarus; A Great Unknown"]

[Text] [Boczkowska-Cretenand] The first free presidential elections will be held in Belarus on 23 June. Can one predict the preference of the people?

[Hryb] Today it is still difficult to predict which one of the six candidates will be elected. The candidates represent various political options—from the extreme left to the extreme right; discussions are under way. However, the results are a great unknown.

[Boczkowska-Cretenand] A few months ago you introduced a new Constitution in Belarus. How broad will the sphere of powers of the new president be?

[Hryb] We did introduce the Constitution; however, one cannot say that it is new. Before that there was a constitution of the Belarusian Soviet Republic. If one speaks about a new Constitution, one assumes that there used to be an old one; however, since March we have had the first sovereign Constitution of Belarus. The president will not be new, either. He will have superior representative and executive powers. In other words, it will be a strong presidential authority. He will be elected by the entire nation.

[Boczkowska-Cretenand] If the people elect a president that comes from a communist party, what will be the political and economic consequences of this?

[Hryb] It is hard to tell; however, I think that this will cause serious problems.

[Boczkowska-Cretenand] What kinds of problems?

[Hryb] In relations with the leaders of Eastern and Western Europe, as well as the United States.

[Boczkowska-Cretenand] Can it impede the economic reforms as well?

[Hryb] It is possible in a way; however, the presidential candidate from the communist party claims that his election will not affect the continuation of economic reforms.

[Boczkowska-Cretenand] Are you an advocate of a monetary union with Russia?

[Hryb] I do not deny that there is a possibility of introducing such a union, based on the experiences of the European Union, which has been discussing this problem for some time now. A monetary union may give many economic advantages. However, this issue should still be analyzed. My country does not have an answer to this question yet. It is still too early.

[Boczkowska-Cretenand] Does Belarus have legislation encouraging foreign investments?

[Hryb] Yes, it does. These are regulations, enacted in the autumn of last year, which concern ownership rights, the law on enterprises, on foreign investments and investors. It is a whole legislative packet that favors investments. The advantageous conditions are known to Polish businessmen investing their capital in Belarus. They are under protection, and they are making profits.

[Boczkowska-Cretenand] You said in Crans Montana that the West is imposing restrictive barriers on Belarussian flax. Do you think that the West might open its markets more broadly for products from Eastern Europe?

[Hryb] I think that access to the markets in Europe should be free and based on competition. Just like Poles, we would also like to have a free market. Why are the countries of rich Europe afraid of our poor market, our goods, and our quality?

[Boczkowska-Cretenand] How do you perceive the problem of security in our part of Europe?

[Hryb] I believe the security problems should be resolved by strengthening independence. We should be sovereign and maintain good relations with our neighbors. The "Partnership for Peace" does not guarantee security to its members.

[Boczkowska-Cretenand] However, it is the first step on this road...

[Hryb] Nevertheless, between the first and the second step there is a long distance, and it is not at all certain that the second step will be made. The road from the

"Partnership" to membership in NATO is long. Membership of the East European states in NATO will make it even more difficult for this organization to make decisions. Therefore, it must change its statute. We are not against the "Partnership for Peace"; however, first we must solve our economic problems.

Article Questions Legality, Benefits of Monetary Merger

WS2306171294 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 4

[Article by Professor of Law Yuriy Brovka: "Once Again About the Notorious Agreement"]

[Excerpts] Discussions regarding the supposed merger of the monetary systems of the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation are not subsiding these days. People are wondering: Is this unification legal and to what extent is it expedient? We will not discuss the economic aspects in detail. Experts have already spoken about this issue. You have only to scan such periodicals as the Minsk-published BANKOVSKIY VESTNIK, NATSIONALNAYA EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA, DELO, BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA, BELORUSKIY RYNOK and the Moscow-published EKONOMIKA I ZHIZN, DELOVOY MIR, and KOMERSANT-DAILY to realize just how extremely critical most highly qualified experts in our states are of this issue. Obviously, the unrecoverable losses for each side will considerably exceed the rather dubious advantages. Let us address the legal side of the issue.

No one doubts the fact that the agreement—with additional protocols attached to it—signed in Moscow two months ago seriously violates the new Constitution of the Republic of Belarus. Only one issue is of importance: What conclusions should be made? We know that the General Prosecutor's Office did not find anything criminal in the work of our governmental delegation. Well, let us assume that, indeed, there was no crime in all this, there are no criminal cases to be investigated, there is no one against whom legal actions could be instituted for having committed intentional crimes. Moreover, [Central Bank Chairman] S. Bahdankevich, one of the members of our delegation, was cautious and officially disagreed with those clauses of the agreement which were obviously unconstitutional. Therefore, there is no agreement as such. In a word, we can only speak about a sort of misunderstanding prompted by the fact that our statesmen have inadequate knowledge of their constitutional duties. We should not wonder why. The times when the Constitution was less valued than the statute of the Communist Party, or even any of the Central Committee's instructions, did not go this far.

Having not sorted out this issue from the viewpoint of the constitutional rights of our state, let us look at it from the international-legal viewpoint. [passage omitted]

I can only add that international legal experts hold a common opinion that the norms "jus cogens" [internationally recognized laws] are, first of all, the principles recognized by international law. Among those principles, the principle assuming the sovereign equality of all states is of top priority. Therefore, what sovereign equality—with regard to the recent Belarusian-Russian agreements on financial issues—can we speak about?! These agreements do not refer to the introduction of a new currency, a new unified ruble, which could be used in circulation as single legal tender with two equal state emblems or without any symbols at all. These agreements do not refer to the setting up of a unified state bank—with the right to print currency—with two cochairmen adopting joint decisions. These agreements do not refer to the use of single tariffs to be introduced in accordance with special bilateral pacts. No, the point is quite the contrary: To allow a foreign state to exercise overall control over the national monetary and credit system; to regularly plead for money with foreign national symbols; to allow a foreign state and a foreign legislature to adopt legal norms—regulating tariffs, customs duties, and so on—to be observed by us. I do not know, perhaps for Tatarstan—fighting to be granted the status of privileged autonomy within the Russian Federation—such an agreement could be a definite step forward, but as for the Republic of Belarus, this, of course, is, no doubt, a step backwards on the path to the so-called "autonomy" which was long ago proposed by Stalin. Evidently, such agreements would not raise the authority of either Belarus or Russia in international arena. It is obvious that—sooner or later—such an agreement will be considered illegal "ab initio" with all the subsequent consequences.

One more thing: I cannot help but wonder, looking at those people—war veterans and representatives of the influential directorial corps—who support the so-called "socialist choice." On what do they count? Do they really count on the quick removal of Russian President B. Yeltsin and Russia's return to the communist past? This hope is quite preposterous. Russia would rather continue along the path of reforms. So, what will directors and chairmen of unprofitable Belarusian kolkhozes and sovkhozes or managers of bankrupt industrial enterprises do then? Let us imagine that they will be able to realize the dream of their life and include independent Belarus into a Russian protectorate or make it a Russian province. Do they believe that Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Chernomyrdin, Mr. Shokhin, and Mr. Gerashchenko will hurry to issue them favorable credits? Will these unlucky managers enjoy the same maneuvering room they currently have? Will they be able to pay wages to their workers when Russian miners and militiamen have been living without wages for several months?

What fortified fraternity between the Belarusian and Russian peoples could they—all those who wish to turn Belarusian workers into Russian parasites, such hangers-ons from the viewpoint of a Russian Philistine—speak about? As for our Belarusian Philistine, he will blame all his mistakes and failures on "Moscow's intrigues." Wonderful prospects! No, we would do better to strive to develop mutually beneficial cooperation with Russia, and other states as well. There are objective conditions for that, we should only make proper use of them.

Moldova

Radioactive Substances Smuggled Throughout Territory

AU2306135494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1945 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 21/6/1994—Last week a group of smugglers of radioactive substances was arrested in action, announced to BASAPRESS the chief of the Moldovan Ministry of Interior Department for Combating Organized Crime. The group had been monitored by the interior ministry bodies over four months. Moldovan citizens Ion Petcu, Alexandru Budoianu, and Simion Tarlev, in collaboration with a Russian citizen, were attempting to sell for $20,000 a tank with 1 kg of the radioactive substance called Gamma Cobalt-60 to a foreign merchant. According to the experts, this quantity would have been sufficient to pollute the entire territory of Moldova. Simion Lacramioara, the chief of the mentioned department, declared that recently Moldova has faced an increase in the smuggling of radioactive substances and drugs. In his opinion, this trend is caused by the lack of strict customs controls on the western borders to Romania and by the lack of borders themselves in the east, with Ukraine. According to Lacramioara, the radioactive substances are stolen from Russian military bases and then smuggled into Western Europe.

Snegur, Council of Europe Experts Examine Gagauz Issue

AU2306140494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1945 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 21/6/1994—Today, President Mircea Snegur met with a Council of Europe experts group, headed by Ivan Koedzhikov [name as received], states a presidential press office communique. The experts group is visiting Moldova to examine the draft law on the special status for the districts densely inhabited by the ethnic Gagauz. The experts pointed out that "no one can deny that the Moldovan president and the parliamentary commissions want to settle this problem according to the human rights norms unanimously accepted." Koedzhikov mentioned that he had spoken with people from these districts and it is clear that they want to live in peace and understanding with the natives and other minorities. According to him, "there are no ethnic tensions in these regions." He pointed out this as an important factor in achieving a final agreement and adopting a law on this matter. President Snegur mentioned that the experts' recommendations are welcome and that they will give him additional credibility in the discussions with the Gagauz side. He also pointed out that "Moldova appreciates the efforts of the international organizations, and in particular the Council of Europe and the CSCE, in achieving political stability in Moldova." Snegur mentioned the necessity of finding compromises that are not ends in themselves, but rather a reality that should be taken into account. He said that "it is essential that the Gagauz people want to live in a united republic; this should be realized by the Comrat leaders, too," states the communique.

Presidential Adviser Views Special Legal Status of Gagauzs

LD2306163194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1544 GMT 23 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky; Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Viktor Grebenshchikov, the presidential state adviser, does not rule out that the contradictions on the draft decree on a special legal status of the Gagauzs agreed between the leaderships of Moldova and Gagauzia is "the result of a certain influence on the representatives of this region from the outside."

IF Note: Last Monday leadership of the self-proclaimed Gagauz republic accused Moldovan authorities of falsification of the draft decree on a special legal status of the regions densely populated with Gagauzs, which was agreed earlier, and declared that "despite the agreement Moldova's parliamentary commission has unilaterally introduced its changes into the document." Having called this move "a unilateral and unprecedented act," the Gagauz leadership asserted that it could not been made without the knowledge and consent of President Mircea Snegur and parliament chairman Pyotr Luchinsky.

In his exclusive interview with Interfax Grebenshchikov asserted that such actions have the aim to delay the process of the decree's adoption and finally the the aim to link solution of this issue with granting a special juridical status to Transdniestria. "These are quite different things and the Gagauz leaders understand this quite well, Grebenshchikov said. As for Gagauzia, the question concerns the fate of the ethnos which has the right for existence and development. Transdniestria's problem is a political one."

Grebenshchikov refused to give his estimate to the last statements of the Gagauz leaders "about serious contradictions on the draft decree." He qualified the attempts of the opposition to assert that Gagauzia is a republic as "demonstration of a certain extremism." As Grebenshchikov said, Article 1 of this draft concretely stipulates that Gagauzia is "a national-territorial autonomous entity as a form of self-determination of the Gagauzs and is a constituent part of the Republic of Moldova." "There are no contradictions between the parties regarding this Article," Grebenshchikov asserted.

He expressed his conviction saying that in the near term leaderships of Kishinev and Komrat "will come to a common denominator." (INTERFAX has learned that leaders of Moldova and Gagauzia are to meet next week). Grebenshchikov hopes that the Moldovan parliament would adopt the decree on Gagauzia's special legal status before its summer vacations.

Dniester Leader Says Only Russians Can Keep Peace

LD2306203194 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1940 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] If UN troops come into the Dniester region they will not be perceived by the population as peacekeepers. This was said at a news conference today by Igor Smirnov, president of the Dniester-Moldavia [Moldova] Republic. Speaking about the results of the conference of international cooperation in peacekeeping in regions of conflict on the territory of the CIS, which was held in Moscow from 20-22 June, he expressed the firm conviction that only Russia has the right to peacekeeping activities in the Dniester region.

Minister Views Transportation Cooperation With Romania

AU2406081094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2040 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 22/06/1994—Tomorrow, a delegation of the Moldovan Ministry of Transportation headed by Minister Vasili Iovv, will leave for Bucharest to meet with representatives of the Romanian Transportation Ministry. Vasile Iovv told BASA that "the visit's purpose is to establish cooperation relations in the field of transportation that will yield profits to both states." Nicolae Ciobanu, deputy head of the Roads Department, told BASA that negotiations on building a bridge across the Prut at Radauti-Lipcani will be also discussed. According to Ciobanu, a program on developing and integrating Moldovan highway networks into the European system will be elaborated. A program on repairing the bridges across the Prut at Galati-Giurgiulesti, Oancea-Cahul and Stanca-Costenti and the highways at these border points will be drafted. According to the Galati agreement, these highways will be passed to international regulations. Ciobanu pointed out that a joint administration of the navigation on the Prut river with an autonomous regulation of organization and functioning will be created. Vasile Iovv stated to BASA that the railway gauge will not be yet passed to the Romanian standards as Moldova does not have sufficient funding for such works. The last meeting between Moldovan and Romanian Transportation Ministries occurred in November 1993.

Joint Control Commission Session Discusses Border Security

AU2406142794 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2040 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Tighina (Bender), BASAPRSS, 22/6/1994—The Joint Control Commission held today in Tighina (Bender) a meeting. At the Moldovan delegation's proposal, the sides kept a moment of silence in the memory of those died in the World War II at the beginning of the meeting. Then the joint military command presented a report on the situation in the security zone during last week. The group for investigating the chases of those disappeared without trace during the 1992 armed conflict also presented a report. The session discoursed the project on cooperation between the Joint Control Commission and CSCE in the security zone proposed by the CSCE mission to Moldova. The report of the Joint Military Command indicated that a grenade and 16 cartridges were confiscated from a Tighina inhabitant last week. Some 107 people were detained for violating the regulations of the security zone. The report also states that the Dniester side again impeded the Joint Control Commission from inspecting the Tighina fortress where as it was earlier reported a Dniester motorized battalion is located. The report also mentioned that Dniestr guardians detained a car belonging to the Moldovan peace-keeping forces. The Dniester guardians were located in the security zone contrary to the 1992 agreement between the Moldovan and Russian Presidents. It was suggested that the parties examine the CSCE mission's proposal and discuss it at a new joint session with the CSCE mission representatives.

Snegur Seeks Parliamentary Approval of Economic Plan

LD2306170594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] President Mircea Snegur has called for parliamentary approval of the government-proposed economic recovery plan for 1994-97.

He said that as a first stage, it was important to curb inflation so as to strengthen the entire infrastructure of the market economy.

"If we fail to do this quickly, there will be a new round of inflation leading to most dire implications," Snegur said.

The president spoke against emergency economic measures calling instead for calm and regaining public trust.

At the same time, he admitted that initial conditions for implementing the government program were bad: there was a further slump in production, widespread stoppages and very low investment activity.

Snegur named budgetary, financial and crediting policies, industrial reorganization, privatization, utilization of the workforce and social security safeguards as key problems facing the government.

Statistical Figures Show Dramatic Drop Throughout Economy

AU2306150694 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1945 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 21/6/1994—From January through May 1994, the Moldovan gross domestic product decreased by 26.6 percent compared to the same period of 1993, states a report of the Statistics Department. Industrial output was valued at 1,194,500,000 lei; this is 29.9-percent less than in 1993 and 53-percent less than in 1990. The enterprises under the direction of the ministry of industry are undergoing the most difficult situation: The drop in the production of these enterprises was 45 percent. Agricultural output fell by 8 percent. Capital constructions stood at 105,200,000 lei, that is 42 percent less than over the first five months of the last year. "Trade with Western countries is undergoing an acute recession," indicates the report. Exports diminished by 49 percent, while imports fell by 4 percent. According to the statistics, the trade deficit stands at $22.6 million. Inflation in May stood at 2.7 percent compared to 43 percent in January 1994. The average April salary stood at 82.3 lei, reports the Statistics Department.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev To Review Plans To Speed Economic Reform

LD2306163694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1541 GMT 23 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andray Petrovsky; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The country's government decided not to submit for a while to parliament its program of speeding up the reform and pulling out of the economic crisis. This decision was made following the criticism President Nursultan Nazarbayev leveled at the program. He told the government to update it in the light of proposals made by every government member. Every minister will have to sign the program and then bear responsibility for its implementation.

Nazarbayev was confident that the anti-crisis program had to dictate the government's tactics for the coming 12 to 15 months. The goal is to cut the monthly inflation rate to below 10 percent. He thought that the production decline could not be overcome unless Kazakhstan's own producers and entrepreneurs were encouraged.

The government decided to discuss the anti-crisis program again next week.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko presented to parliament a memorandum on the government's socio-economic policy. He said that Kazakhstan had exhausted the domestic sources of financing for reforming its economy. Therefore, he thought, the country needs foreign credits. Preparations for them will take 15 months, he explained. Tereshchenko said that the government would act in three stages during that period.

At the first stage, from June to December 1994, the government will rely chiefly on domestic resources for budget financing. Within that time inflation will be reduced to below 10 percent and the tenge, the national currency, would be stabilized to some extent.

At the second stage, from January to September 1995, the government expects an agreement on medium-term credits to be signed, an accelerated integration with Russia and CIS member nations and investments by the G7 group.

The third stage will be the beginning of a new economic policy. The government intends to lay the foundation for an improvement of living standards and a production growth.

Tereshchenko emphasized that the government would pursue an unswerving anti-inflation policy, reduce taxes, carry out a bank reform and step up privatization.

He insisted that reforms could not be carried out without properly financing the social sphere, because otherwise society would reject them. He wanted parliament to support the budget and said that if the country stood by it, foreign loans would be easier to obtain.

Answering questions, Tereshchenko said he did not think the country could return to the ruble zone because of the significant differences between the Russian and Kazakh economies.

He called for introduction of a transnational CIS currency, the altyn, and added that this idea had been initially put forward by Nazarbayev in his draft plan of setting up a Eurasian Union.

Tereshchenko recalled that Kazakhstan had had to leave the ruble zone and introduce its own currency because, in his words, Russia had demanded a gift of nearly $1.5 billion. He said that the talks between Moscow and Minsk on the setting up of a ruble zone had been futile for nearly six months.

Tereshchenko thought, however, that a joint economic space and lifting customs duties inside the CIS would facilitate integration of CIS member nations.

More on Visit by Kyrgyzstan's Dzhumagulov

LD2306132294 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Summary] Apas Dzhumagulov, the prime minister of Kyrgyzstan, paid a visit to Kazakhstan. He was received by the president and the prime minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan. They discussed the issue of Kazakhstan's payment of debt to Kyrgyzstan for power supplies. It was decided that Kazakhstan will provide Kyrgyzstan with 1 million tonnes of coal, 100,000 tonnes of black oil, 3,000 tonnes of gas, and 5,000 tonnes of diesel oil as part of a payment for debt. Apart from Apas Dzhumagulov, the delegation of Kyrgyzstan included Sultanov, the chairman of the republican national bank; the president of the joint stock Kyrgyzenergetika power engineering company; the general director of the Karabalty ore mining combine; and other officials.

Prime Minister Supports Introduction of Single CIS Currency

LD2306114194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0942 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Sergey Tereshchenko believes that Kazakhstan cannot return to the ruble zone due to serious economic differences between Russia and Kazakhstan.

He told parliament on Thursday [23 June] that it would be beneficial to introduce a supra-national CIS currency—the altyn.

He said that the idea of introducing the altyn had been proposed by President Nazarbayev and that Kazakhstan's withdrawal from the ruble zone and the introduction of its national currency was a forced measure, taken after Russia demanded about $1.5 billion from Kazakhstan.

He said that a single economic system must be created, and customs limitations lifted in the CIS, all of which will promote the integration of the CIS countries.

More Than 20,000 Waive Kazakh Citizenship

LD2306103594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0653 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Ignatov]

[Text] Alma Ata [Almaty] 23 June TASS—More than 20,000 inhabitants of Kazakhstan have formally relinquished their citizenship. The number is not seen as considerable when compared to the Republic's total population—only one in every 85,000 people does not want to be a citizen of Kazakhstan, according to chief of the passport and visa department of the Republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs Umirbai Musayev [name as received].

The official said that most inhabitants of Kazakhstan will soon exchange Soviet-era passports for plastic identification cards for use inside the Republic.

Foreign travel passports will be issued only to those who have to travel for business or other reasons. Those who so wish may hold both a plastic ID and a travel passport. But while the former is issued for a token price, the latter will cost the individual a pretty penny.

Although the ID cards will carry information about the holder's citizenship, they can hardly be valid for travel even to the neighbouring countries. Free travel outside a republic is a moot question for the governments of the former Soviet countries.

Kyrgyzstan

President Akayev Welcomes New Pakistani Ambassador

LD2306111494 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 2300 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Excerpts] As was reported earlier, President Askar Akayev received Pakistan's Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan Riaz Mohammad Khan on 21 June. [passage omitted]

The Pakistani ambassador presented his credentials to the president of Kyrgyzstan.

[Begin Akayev recording] Esteemed ambassador, I am pleased to receive your credentials on this important day and congratulate you sincerely on the occasion of your appointment as ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Kyrgyzstan. You represent the country with a centuries-old unique history and rich culture, which gained its independence in 1947 and achieved great success on this path. The founder of the state Mohammad Ali Jinnah [the first governor general of Pakistan] saw Pakistan as a democratic state and [word indistinct] where the ideas of humanity and equality have been embodied in the [word indistinct] state institutions. A great many of Pakistan's leaders dedicated their lives to that, among whom we can name Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and the current Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto, and of course the president of Pakistan. Today's event is an important stage for Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan. Pakistan is one of our closest neighbors and we cooperate within the framework of different international organizations, including the Organization for Economic Cooperation, the Islamic Conference Organization, and on a bilateral basis. Representatives from different ministries and departments of our countries have established their first but very promising contacts. The fact of Pakistan granting us a credit worth $10 million last year was an important stage in our relations. It was channelled for the development of health care of Kyrgyzstan.

Dear ambassador, by accrediting you as the first ambassador of Pakistan to Kyrgyzstan, we give a new impetus to Kyrgyzstan-Pakistan cooperation today, which I believe could become mutually beneficial and fruitful in future and serve the purpose of strengthening peace, stability and security in our region. To sum up, I would like to assure you, Mr. Mohammad Khan, that you can count on full support from me and the Government of Kyrgyzstan in fulfilling your historic mission. [end recording]

Akayev Visits Industries in Southern Regions

LD2306161294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1435 GMT 23 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Askar Akayev has asked the Finance Ministry to explore the opportunities for early subsidies to the hydro power plants under construction and to find about 30 million soms (about $10 million) for the purpose. The order follows President Akayev's trip to the Jalalabad region in the south of the country in the middle of the week, the Presidential Press Service has told IF.

In the course of the trip Akayev met with workers of the "Narymgidroenergostroi" joint stock company. Hydro power plant construction workers have not been paid wages for many months and the situation is critical. The joint stock company is faced with the risk of a strike.

President Akayev visited a semi-conductor factory in Tash-Kumyr, where he met with city leaders and factory managers to discuss the possibility of subsidizing the expansion of this factory, one of the biggest producers of mono-crystals in the CIS.

The question of closing down unprofitable pits was discussed at President Akayev's meetings with Tash-Kumyr coal workers.

Experts blame the country's grave financial and economic position on inadequate taxation. Akayev asked the government to draft new tax legislation by September 1.

Presidential adviser on social and economic affairs, Talai Koichumanov has told IF that the adoption of a better system of taxation at the forthcoming session of parliament would be crucial to forming the budget for 1995 on fundamentally new principles. Koichumanov said the budget was the main tool of social-economic policies. He said that currently the treasury was receiving a mere half of the minimum necessary to keep the economy going and most of the budget revenue was spent on the social safety net for the population.

The presidential adviser said that the economic and financial position of Kyrgyzstan grave as it is, there has to be a comprehensive, stable and flexible tax legislation promptly responding to market changes. He hopes this would encourage private enterprise and increase budget revenues.

About the situation in individual branches of the economy the presidential adviser said that Kyrgyzstan's industries needed fundamental reconstruction. Some unprofitable enterprises will simply be closed down.

A full-scale agrarian reform, which, experts hope, will improve the situation in agriculture, can be launched no earlier than the autumn of 1994.

Koichumanov warns that structural reforms in the economy and urgent measures to increase production contained in the three-year-plan may end in failure, unless Kyrgyzstan receives favorable credits from the IMF, the World Bank and donor-countries. The Kyrgyz presidential adviser fears that in the near future his country may find itself in a position similar to that of many African countries having poorly developed industries, huge foreign debts and quick population growth in rural regions. The sole difference would be that Kyrgyzstan has a far higher education level.

T. Koichumanov strongly criticized the Cabinet for letting debts snowball. In 1993-1994 most credits were spend on the social sphere and on purchases of grain and fuel, and not on developing production.

However, the presidential adviser believes that Kyrgyzstan has certain chances of coping with the crisis. He sees a way out in attracting foreign credits and investments into the production sphere in carrying out realistic projects. He believes that only the maximum preferences for private investors, in particular, the biggest multinational corporations, would attract foreign capital into Kyrgyzstan.

Presidential adviser Koichumanov believes that Kyrgyzstan should follow in the footsteps of Southeast Asian countries, which are expected to make a new economic leap in 2000 and the vacant niche in the world commodity production market of may be taken by Central Asian countries, including Kyrgyzstan.

Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives in Dushanbe

LD2406094794 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0800 GMG 24 Jun 94

[Text] Askar Aytmatov, deputy foreign minister of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, arrived in Dushanbe yesterday for political consultations on interstate relations.

On the same day, he was received by Erkin Rahmatullayev, deputy foreign minister of Tajikistan. In the course of practical and cordial talks, both sides discussed issues relating to the draft agreement on the foundation of relations between the two sovereign states and the draft of a number of documents which reflect the interests of both countries.

Askar Aytmatov conveyed to Erkin Rahmatullayev a statement from the Kyrgyzstan Foreign Ministry, which expresses satisfaction with the course of talks between the Tajiks.

Economic Crisis Continues to Worsen

LD2306125394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0744 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, 23 Jun—The economic crisis in Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan] continues to worsen. According to figures published today by the National Statistics Committee, total output in May fell by 27.8 percent compared with April. Sixty-five industrial enterprises have been at a standstill since the beginning of the year. Losses at unprofitable enterprises amount to 245.6 million soms.

Over 30,000 employees are sent on compulsory leave every month and about 34,000 are on short time. At the beginning of the year about 2,000 people were reporting every month to labor exchanges, but by the end of April this figure had doubled, and by the beginning of June it had risen to 15,800. Specialists reckon that unemployment is becoming a large-scale and chronic problem, especially among young people up to the age of 30. Since the beginning of the year, this category's share in total unemployment has risen by 150 percent.

Economic activity continues to decline in all sectors. There was a deficit of 298.2 million soms on the consolidated budget for the first four months of the year—this is 10.5 percent of gross domestic product.

During January-April the Republic earned profit of 370.2 million soms. But increased prices account for most of this.

Things are no better in agriculture. Meat production fell by almost 30 percent. Production of eggs has almost completely ceased. People have to buy them from private producers. Some economists had pinned their hopes on privatization, but they now say it is moving in a strange direction. Only 30 percent of the population have received vouchers or "shares," as they are called in Kirghizia. Even so, these people are in no hurry to make use of them. Privatized enterprises are either abandoning their original production profile or else coming to a complete standstill.

Tajikistan

Peace Talks in Tehran Focus on Cease-Fire Agreement

LD2306153294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1256 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] The participants in the inter-Tajik talks which began in Tehran on June 18 are concentrating on the discussion of a cease-fire agreement and on measures to prevent other hostile actions. The draft was proposed by the UN special envoy Ramiro Piriz Ballon, the Russian Foreign Ministry's spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told journalists on Thursday.

Karasin believes that the discussion and adoption of the agreement is the main goal of the Tehran talks and said that Russia hopes both Tajik delegations will reach an understanding on the issue.

He also said that Russia would continue to assist the attainment of mutually acceptable agreements. "Our attitude to the parties concerned will depend on how sincerely they approach the talks," he said.

Talks 'Proceeding Extremely Slowly'

LD2306122994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0930 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran, 23 Jun—The discussion of individual points of the cease-fire agreement is proceeding extremely slowly. The draft of the agreement was proposed by Romero Piriz-Ballon, special envoy of the UN secretary general in Tajikistan during the second round of the Tajik talks in the Iranian capital. The ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned this from well-informed sources.

One of the leaders of the Tajik Islamic opposition, Haji Akbar Turajonzoda—who is in Tehran at present but is not directly involved in the talks—explained the views of the government opposition in an interview with ABRAR newspaper. The opposition believes, he said, that the cease-fire must be temporary and limited and must last just for the duration of the talks, that is, until 27 June. Dushanbe does want a prolonged cease-fire, because this would be in the interests of the government. The fact is that, during the summer season the units of the opposition forces want to bring their forces into action.

Taking this into account the cease-fire would cause great damage to a number of the opposition's demands: The liberation of the arrested opposition activists, the removal of the ban on activities of the political parties, and the closure of criminal proceedings instituted against their representatives. In addition, the cease-fire must be abided by not only on the Tajik-afghan border but also on the whole of the territory of the republic. The government and Russian troops must renounce warfare methods with the opposition under the pretext of its desire to combat crime. It is also necessary that these troops should not leave their bases.

Despite all the obstacles, the opposition leader stressed, we want the talks to be successful. Because that is in the interests of the Tajik people.

No Acceptable Solutions Reached

LD2306184894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1735 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] After over five days of inter-Tajik negotiations, which started on June 18 in Tehran, the parties have failed to find any mutually acceptable decision, an expert from the Tajik opposition reported to Interfax Thursday.

He called the proposal of Dushanbe to initiate unilateral disarmament of the opposition's armed formations as unacceptable.

For its part, the Tajik opposition proposed to start bilateral disarmament under the supervision of representatives from the UN, CSCE, Russia, Iran, Afghanistan, and Kazakhstan, the expert said. The opposition insists that the Interior and Security Ministries' forces be disarmed as well. The opposition proposes that Russian forces carry out the functions of the republic's security bodies during a replacement of the staffs of those bodies.

The expert added that the parties continue examining proposals on a cease-fire brought forward by the UN General Secretary Special Envoy Ramiro Piriz Ballon.

Meanwhile, in his interview with Interfax Akbar Turadzhonzoda, co-chairman of the Movement for Tajikistan's Islamic Revival, declared that the opposition "does not strive for power" and is ready to participate in national elections. However, as he said, it is necessary to permit the activity of all political parties, to publish newspapers irrespective of their political orientation, and to release political prisoners in order to hold these elections.

A popular government, made up of those who have not stained themselves by "the fratricide war," should rule the country during the preparation for the elections and adoption of the republic's Constitution, Turadzhonzoda said.

Talks Pave Way for Progress

LD2306130694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0952 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] The second round of Tajikistan's peace talks, which were held in Tehran, have increased the hopes for a peaceful and just solution to Tajik crisis.

The talks have been held with the participation of government representatives and Tajik opposition groups in the presence of representatives from Russia and Central Asian countries and under the supervision of an envoy of the UN secretary-general. The aim of the talks is to find a formula to end the civil war that began in Tajikistan approximately two years ago. This crisis, which began after the collapse of the Tajik coalition government, not only resulted in the loss of lives and homes of thousands of Tajik people, but has also threatened regional security. It could involve the United States and other foreign countries, who are waiting for a chance to influence the region and create discord among the Muslim nations in the regional conflict.

Although the participation by the government and the opposition groups of Tajikistan in the peace talks, by itself, is considered appropriate, true progress in the talks requires the official recognition of the Tajik people's right to determine their own fate and a response to their wishes for a democratic state based on accepted international norms and standards.

The establishment of a real peace in Tajikistan will only be possible if the Muslim Tajik nation builds the foundations of its desired government based on its believed principles and national and Islamic culture. It seems this need has been accepted in general terms by the Russian Government and other neighboring countries of Tajikistan and its own government.

In this regard the Islamic Republic of Iran in particular has played an important role in closing the gap between the stance of the government and the oppositions of Tajikistan. The Iranian Government began its efforts to seek peace at the outbreak of the Tajik civil war. At present Iran continues to play this sensitive and determining role by holding the second rounds of talks in Tehran. Without doubt the results of Tehran talks will pave the way for further developments in the third round of talks, which will be held in Pakistan.

Tajik Representatives on Peace Talks

NC2306104494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Report by correspondent Qoroqi; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] The second round of Tajikistan's peace talks which started on Saturday [18 June] at the Foreign Ministry's Political and International Studies Department in Tehran is continuing and the two sides have reached some agreements on a cease-fire. On how the talks are progressing as well as on the prospects for peace in Tajikistan, we talked with Shukurjon Zuhurov and Otahon Latifi, the representatives of the government and of the opposition, respectively.

Mr. Latifi, please tell us what topics were covered in the major discussions in recent days and what progress has been made.

[Latifi, speaking in Tajik] The recent discussions concentrated on the fact that we are searching for peace and stability in our homeland. Of course, it is very difficult to achieve reconciliation without talks. As to what the outcomes will be, the future will tell.

[Qoroqi] It has been said that a temporary cease-fire until the conclusion of the talks has been agreed on. What is your opinion on the mechanism for this cease-fire?

[Latifi] A cease-fire mechanism has not yet been proposed. When it is proposed, it will be discussed with UN experts who are experienced in this field and it will be endorsed by us.

[Qoroqi] We also interviewed the Tajik Government representative Shukurjon Zuhurov. Mr. Zuhurov, as the representative of the Tajik Government at the peace talks, you have heard what Mr. Latifi had to say. How acceptable do you think these proposals are for your government?

[Zuhurov, speaking in Tajik] I strongly support what Mr. Latifi said as far as establishing peace and stability in Tajikistan as soon as possible is concerned. I would like to say that today we feel that no one but the Tajiks themselves can establish peace and stability in our homeland. We can be assisted. But lasting peace can be established in Tajikistan only when the Tajiks are reconciled with each other, when general and national satisfaction is gained, and when the Tajiks live as one nation in this country.

Thus, the second round of talks started in Iran—in the land of the people who we feel want to help us very much—and we started to solve the problems that were listed in the agenda of our first round of talks in Moscow. And one of the major problems, as you stated and as was heard in Mr. Latifi's remarks, was establishing a cease-fire and efforts toward this. We started discussions on this today and, God willing, we will reach an outcome.

[Qoroqi] The opposition underlines the need to dissolve the government and to hold free elections. In your capacity as the representative of the government, what is your opinion on this?

[Zuhurov] Elections should be free and democratic overall. If not, they cannot achieve tranquility. We have not yet discussed how the elections will be held and the participation of all the people of Tajikistan in the elections. We will try to speed up these discussions because we have lost a lot of time.

Bus Carrying Children of Russian Soldiers Attacked

LD2406062694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0620 GMT 24 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe June 24 TASS—One passer-by was killed and another wounded on Friday in Dushanbe when unknown gunmen fired a grenade at a bus carrying children of Russian military servicemen in Tajikistan and their guards.

Nobody among the bus passengers was wounded, TASS was told at the Tajik Interior Ministry.

Russian Military Condemns 'Terrorist Attack'

LD2406094494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0908 GMT 24 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe June 24 TASS—The Friday attack on a bus with children of Russian military serving in Tajikistan was "a planned terrorist act" and a "continuation of the well-planned and controlled terror against Russian troops deployed in Tajikistan," according to Vladimir Novikov, deputy commander of the Russian frontier troops in the Central Asian republic.

Several Russian military have fallen victim to the terrorist campaign only in the first four days of June. The latest attack on the bus with some 30 kids and their parents did not harm any of the passengers, however a passer-by was killed and several others wounded. Unknown gunmen fired a grenade on the bus early on Friday.

Novikov told reporters that Russian troops will mount protection of their personnel by seting up additional guarding posts and patrols in places where Russian servicemen live. He added that armoured vehicles will be used for protection.

Novikov stressed that the leadership of the Russian frontier troops in Tajikistan is preparing a statement in connection with the attack on the bus.

Russian border guards defend the Tajik-Afghan border to cut short the infiltration of armed Tajik opposition militants from Afghanistan.

Gunmen Attempt Armed Infiltration Across Afghan Border

LD2306115194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1025 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 23 June (ITAR-TASS)—Two attempts at armed infiltration into Tajikistan from Afghanistan by small groups of Tajik gunmen on sections of the Pyanj border detachment, were foiled during the night of 22-23 June by Russian border guards.

The Directorate of the Group of Russian Border Guards in Tajikistan told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that artillery strikes were carried out near [border] crossings. It is not known if the infiltrators suffered losses. There were no losses among the Russian servicemen.

Supreme Soviet Delegation Holds Talks in China

LD2406125294 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] China will develop its relations with other countries on the basis of principles of peaceful coexistence. Rong Yiren, vice president of the People's Republic of China, said this during his meeting with the Tajik Supreme Soviet delegation headed by Abdulmajid Dostiyev, first vice chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, which is currently visiting China.

Rong Yiren expressed satisfaction at the development of relations between the two countries following the establishment of diplomatic relations. He said Tajikistan and China, as developing countries, (?ought) to develop their national economies and enhance the standards of living of their peoples. We should develop relations and expand cooperation with other countries. He said the Chinese economy is developing fast and the standard of living is improving. However, despite this, there is still a large gap between Chinese economic growth and the standard of living, and the standard of living in developed countries. [passage indistinct]

Dostiyev said the main objective of the Tajik parliamentary delegation's visit to the PRC is to familiarize themselves with Chinese experiences on social and economic reforms.

Informed sources said that the head of Tajik delegation explained the situation in Tajikistan and the position of the Tajik Government vis-a-vis the inter-Tajik talks that are continuing in Tehran during his meetings with Chinese officials.

According to Chinese experts, military actions that are taking place between the Tajik Government and the Tajik Islamic opposition are causing serious concern in Beijing. It is believed that the continuation of armed clashes there could destabilize the situation along the Tajik-Chinese border. Therefore, it is not a coincidence that Qiao Shi, chairman of China's National People's Congress Standing Committee, during his meeting with the Tajik delegation, said that China has an interest in seeing the border between the two countries be transformed into a border of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation.

Uzbekistan

President Karimov Reportedly Has Kidney Removed

MK2306113594 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jun 94 p 3

[Unattributed NEGA report in the "Uzbekistan" column]

[Text] Informed sources say that Uzbek President Islam Karimov recently had a kidney removal operation. In this connection all scheduled meetings with various delegation were cancelled. True, he was present at a cabinet of ministers session devoted to the introduction of the national currency. According to eyewitness accounts, he did not look very well and was present for only 20 minutes. His visit to Turkey, scheduled for 23 June, has not been canceled, though. In the course of the visit a number of earlier signed agreements bearing on credits, investments, student and teacher exchanges, and so forth, are expected to be revised.

Turkish Talks End With Signing of 4 Documents

LD2406082294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0729 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara 24 June TASS—Uzbek-Turkish official talks ended here on Thursday [23 June] by the signing of four bilateral documents. The delegations were headed by President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, who arrived in Turkey on Thursday, and president Suleyman Demirel of Turkey. The sides concluded agreements on mutual assistance in the science of law, development of contacts in civil aviation, a consular agreement and a protocol on cosultations and cooperation between the foreign ministries of the two countries.

The signed documents, a statement of the Turkish Foreign Ministry notes, will contribute to the solution of issues in actively devoloping relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan. Bilateral contacts are quickly developing in the sphere of trade, economy and culture.

During the talks the sides expressed a mutual desire to begin works as soon as possible for signing an agreement regarding the cancellation of vizas for citizens of the two republics. Both sides spoke out in favour of invigorating relations in the political field by means of mutual consultations and actions on the international arena.

Karimov Cited on Relations With Turkey

LD2306121794 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 1000 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Uzbek President Islam Karimov left for Turkey today on an official state visit. Before his departure, answering a journalist's question, our country's leader said:

[Begin Karimov recording] After achieving our independence and sovereignty, small but noticeable changes are taking place in our policy and life and also in international and interstate ties and in politics. From this point of view we are establishing contacts with many countries including the small, the powerful, and the large, but we will be looking at how these countries see us, how close they are to us, how close their people are to us.

From this point of view Turkey is very close to us. [words indistinct] The people of Turkey, the Turkic peoples are very close to us. Their language and their heart but primarily their religion and their destiny are very close to us. [words indistinct]

Our relations with the Turkish leaders, public, and entrepreneurs are not bad and are currently developing well. For example, there are more than 100 joint enterprises and organizations [in Uzbekistan]. We must, however, be frank that there are forces who want to damage these ties, these close and friendly relations and it would be wrong to ignore these. For this reason such forces must be controlled and we must look at our relations with this close and strategically [word indistinct] state on the basis of a long sighted policy.

Raising economic and political ties with this state to a new level is the reason for our current visit. From this point of view I believe that Turkey looks at us with the same wish and hope and I think that this visit will raise our relations with Turkey to a new level—primarily it will be in the interest of Uzbekistan and the people of Uzbekistan. [end recording]

Armenia

Prime Minister, Delegation Return From Switzerland

NC2306134494 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0736 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Yerevan ("HAYASTANI HANRAPETUTYUN", RESPUBLICA ARMENIA" dailies), 06/23/94—Yesterday the Armenian delegation, headed by the Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan, returned from Switzerland, where it has been participating in an international economy congress in Krans-Montana.

Governmental delegations of 34 Eastern European and Asian countries, representatives of large Western commercial, financial, industrial and bank organizations participated in the congress. It's goal was to support development of relations between European and Asian countries through private contacts between politicians and economists.

During a meeting, dedicated to Armenia, RA [Republic of Armenia] Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan analyzed the political and economic situations in the country, problems of foreign trade and a number of problems concerning financial and banking systems in Armenia. He also had a number of working and confidential meetings with heads of official delegations of a number of countries and representatives of large Western companies.

During a meeting with the Chairman of the Congress Jean-Paul Carterand the sides discussed the problems of Armenia's further collaboration with the congress, particularly, organization of a special session, dedicated to Armenia. Several aspects of the socio-economic state in Armenia have also been discussed.

Grant Bagratyan also met Federal Chancellor of Switzerland, Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Jean-Pascal Delamuraz. The sides discussed formation and development of relations between Armenia and Switzerland. Mr. Delamuraz expressed interest to the political situation in the region and position of Armenia regarding the peace process.

A theme of separate discussions was the attitude of Switzerland to the programs of International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, concerning Armenia. Since Armenia and Azerbaijan belong to one group, Armenian prime minister suggested Switzerland to be positive regarding economic programs both in Armenia and Azerbaijan despite the relations between the two countries. Mr. Bagratyan also asked to include Armenia in the list of countries, which Switzerland is going to render aid in the coming year.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Istanbul Visit Assessed

944K1527A Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 21 Jun 94 pp 1-2

[Report by Ibragim Shukurov: "Peace Policy: Results of the Working Visit of Azerbaijani President Gaydar Aliyev to Turkey 9-10 June"]

[Text] Istanbul-Baku—**Istanbul is a giant maze of streets, pierced, like steel needles, by bridges, avenues, and expressways. A city in which two continents are neighbors and the elemental forces of two seas meet.... Only from a birds' eye view did it acquire for me the clarity and completeness of its quaintly subdividing formation. Looking out the aircraft window at Istanbul, which was turning pinkish in the rays of the setting sun, I finally understood where was Asia, and where was Europe, where the Black Sea, and where the Sea of Marmora, where the Bosphorus, and where the Golden Horn.... Truly, great things are seen from afar!**

The dimensions of the working visit to Turkey of Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev also revealed themselves in all their fullness after a certain interval of time. It was later, in Baku, when a number of important summit meetings had been held, that the import and the logic of the visit become clear.

The most complex situation that has come about in Azerbaijan as a result of the Armenian aggression, the search for ways to achieve a just and all-embracing peace, the return of the occupied territories to the bosom of Azerbaijan, and the creation of sure guarantees of the safety of the peaceful population in these parts, the settlement of certain questions of military cooperation with Russia, and the strengthening of partner relations with countries of East and West, which implies not only political alliances but also the realization of joint economic projects—this in summarized form constituted the purposes and tasks of Geydar Aliyev's visit to Turkey.

It was truly a working visit, in the sense that it was filled to the maximum with meetings, conversations, and consultations on the most important policy issues.

The work began at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport, even, where the president of Azerbaijan was met by Turkish President Suleyman Demirel. The leaders of the two countries issued a statement for journalists representing newspapers and agencies of Turkey, Azerbaijan, and a number of other countries.

Both leaders noted how great the danger of an expansion of the boundaries of the military conflict unleashed by Armenia was. According to Geydar Aliyev, its inordinate territorial claims are creating a threat to peace and security throughout the region. Today the focal point of the war is blazing in Azerbaijan, but there is no guarantee that it will not tomorrow spread to contiguous countries. In this situation not only Azerbaijan but all states of the region are concerned to see a stimulation of the efforts of the CSCE and other European and international organizations aimed at interdicting the aggressor.

This speech to the journalists set the tone for the whole series of Geydar Aliyev's meetings, which took place at a time when the North Atlantic Cooperation Council was in session. The city on the Bosphorus was greeting many important guests at that time. An Azerbaijani delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov had also arrived for a CSCE [as published] Council session.

Politicians of many countries sought meetings with Geydar Aliyev. The limited time of his stay in Turkey constricted, naturally, the range of persons with whom the leader of the republic had a dialogue. But the choice of partners was not fortuitous, it was dictated by both tactical and strategic tasks of grand policy.

On the first day of his stay in Turkey, the president of Azerbaijan received at his residence in the Sheraton Hotel British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who had initiated the meeting. They dealt with the situation in the zone of combat operations, problems of a humanitarian nature, and the prospects of cooperation in the economy, particularly in the oil industry. Both sides emphasized the importance of contacts and the continuation of political consultations for the resolution of Azerbaijan's main problem—a winding down of hostilities on the territory of the republic, the restoration of peace, and people's return to their native haunts. Peace in the region is the goal and the condition and the means of Azerbaijan's cooperation with foreign countries.

The same day the president met with Gen. Dogan Gures, chief of the General Staff of Turkey's armed forces.

The second day of the visit contained a full program. At nine in the morning the president met in his rooms Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas. Geydar Aliyev greeted his guest warmly. He said, in particular, that he valued highly her work as chairman of the CSCE and her efforts for a settlement of the Armenian- Azerbaijani conflict.

"The problems have, unfortunately, become even more complex," Geydar Aliyev said, "but I am once again counting on the support of the CSCE. I hope that the authority that you have gained in Europe and the efforts of your compatriot Jan Eliasson, who is currently head of the Minsk Group, will permit the achievement of the desired results."

Margaretha af Ugglas thanked Geydar Aliyev for the high evaluation of her work as leader of the CSCE. She said that she was pleased to have the meeting and recalled with great satisfaction her stay in Baku. "I realize," she declared, "that not all problems have been resolved, but I am reassured by the fact that the Minsk Group is headed by the experienced diplomat Eliasson. He is in productive contact not only with both sides but also with Moscow, where he recently held important meetings."

A key event of the program of President Geydar Aliyev's visit was his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. It took place at the Ciragan Hotel, in which the session of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council was being held at this time.

Experienced politicians, Geydar Aliyev and Warren Christopher, having exchanged greetings and pleasantries, immediately got down to an ascertainment of positions in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. President Geydar Aliyev enumerated the problems that Azerbaijan had encountered in the course of the Armenian aggression that has been going on for six years now. He said that as a result of the Armenian offensive, 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory had been occupied and that the republic had 1.2 million refugees.

"I believe," Geydar Aliyev said, "that the war should be brought to an end. Since I became president, I have sought a settlement of the conflict by peaceful means. We have cooperated with the CSCE and its Minsk Group and with the United Nations from the very outset. As you know, the Security Council has adopted four resolutions demanding an immediate withdrawal of forces from the captured Azerbaijani territory. The Armenian side is not complying with these resolutions. I would like to be completely sincere: The hopes that we placed in the CSCE have yet to be justified. The Minsk Group has been unable in four years, unfortunately, to do anything of substance.

"We would like to see a stimulation of the activity of the CSCE and the Minsk Group and are very much counting on the support of the United States here. It seems to me that a principal condition of a settlement of the conflict is the active position of the United States in untying its knots."

In his answering remarks, Warren Christopher thanked Geydar Aliyev for the information and for the "graphic," as he put it, presentation of the picture of the conflict. The secretary of state observed that the United States supported Azerbaijan's peace initiatives. The leadership of his country was impressed by the fact that the republic was working with the CSCE and was helping realize the peacemaking program being undertaken by this organization. "We will always support your commitment to the CSCE," Warren Christopher declared.

He sounded out Azerbaijan's readiness to agree, up to certain limits, to compromise and could see for himself that our peace initiatives are not an empty declaration, they are backed by practical actions, which could in the future be even more vigorous. W. Christopher emphasized the importance for a strengthening of Azerbaijan's economy of the signing of the oil contracts. Concluding the conversation, W. Christopher assured the leader of Azerbaijan that the United States would do everything to ensure that the conferees and interested parties operate within the framework of international standards.

The foreign ministers of Turkey and Azerbaijan—Hikmet Cetin and Gasan Gasanov—and state counselors Vafa Gulizade and Gabil Guseynli took part in the meeting.

Ninety minutes later there was a meeting in the same hotel with Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias. It pursued the accomplishment of a two-in-one task: on the one hand outlining a program of cooperation with Greece, and on the other, entering into contact with the European Union, of which this country is the chairman.

"Our states," Geydar Aliyev said, opening the meeting, "have good prospects for the development of bilateral relations. Considering their geopolitical location, climatic features, and historical traditions, Azerbaijan and Greece have good opportunities for fruitful cooperation. It has long been time to determine spheres of partnership and prepare the corresponding documents."

Touching on the subject of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, the president said that it is attended by great sacrifices. They are being borne, in the main, by Azerbaijan, on whose territory the hostilities are taking place.

"Our goal," Geydar Aliyev emphasized, "is to achieve a ceasefire and the liberation of the captured territories. The European Union could, in our view, play its part in a settlement of the conflict. We want all countries to have objective information on what is happening in the region. Unfortunately, outside of it the majority believes that both parties to this conflict are equally to blame. It is extraordinarily important for us in this situation that the world community know who is the aggressor, and who the victim. We are counting on your help here."

Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias agreed with Geydar Aliyev that the European Union could reinforce the potential of the peacekeeping force operating in the region.

"The European Union, like Greece also," Karolos Papoulias declared, "has always been a supporter of disputed questions being solved at the negotiating table, not with violence. We cannot be indifferent to the problems of refugees and offer our services for a halt to an escalation of the conflict. Greece, as a sovereign state and as the country that heads the European Union, is ready to cooperate with Azerbaijan."

The search for partners that could help stop the millstones of war and bring back peace to the lacerated land defined also the work in Istanbul of Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov. He had a constructive dialogue with FRG Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, who expressed hope for a stimulation of efforts for the speediest resolution of the bloody conflict. He conveyed to G. Gasanov a package of documents that are being prepared for signature by the NATO partners. Gasan Gasanov's speech at the session of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council was harmoniously interwoven into the political context of the president of Azerbaijan's visit.

This speech made it possible once again to contrast the two concepts of a settlement of the conflict: the Azerbaijani concept, based on a just peace and a stabilization of the situation throughout the region and the assurance of guarantees of security and tranquillity for all, and the Armenian concept, which is imbued with a spirit of annexationism and national egocentrism and pursues the goal of digging in at all costs on territory that has been seized by force.

"Twenty countries have subscribed to the Partnership for Peace program, and this proves the viability of its underlying principles and ideas," G. Gasanov said in his speech. "The Azerbaijani Republic, which was among the first to subscribe to the program, attaches great significance to the Partnership, seeing in it big opportunities for influencing the present situation in my country.

"Azerbaijan has shown in practice repeatedly its commitment to the principles of a peaceful settlement of conflicts. It advocates a solution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict from the position of the commonly accepted international standards, specifying the observance of states' sovereignty and territorial integrity and the sanctity of their borders and respect for human rights. But all our efforts to find a peaceful way out of the deadlocked conflict are running into the power barrier of the aggressor.

"Flouting the rules of international law, Armenia is pursuing a policy of fait accompli in respect to the occupied Azerbaijani territories. It needs the negotiating process solely to gain time, which is being used to increase its military presence, dig in on the occupied Azerbaijani territory, and expand deep into Azerbaijan."

War and peace in the region, who benefits from an escalation of the conflict, and the political calculations, for which the people are paying in blood, were the subject also of the meeting between Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev and Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, which was held at the Yildiz Kosk residence. This meeting concluded the program of the visit and summed up, as it were, all that had been done in this time.

Geydar Aliyev focused attention in the conversation on the threat of an increase in military and political pressure on Azerbaijan and on the attempt of certain circles to stymie the negotiating process and isolate the republic from the assistance of European and international organizations.

Tansu Ciller listened closely to Geydar Aliyev and promised all- around support for all Azerbaijan's peace initiatives.

There is no doubt that the meeting of Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev and the work of the Azerbaijani delegation at the session of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in Istanbul made obvious and irrefutable for our actual and potential partners the truth that Azerbaijan aspires to peace and harmony in the region and calls on Armenia to do likewise. Having fallen victim to unprecedented aggression, our republic nonetheless does not thirst for revenge, but is displaying the initiative for the suppression, finally, by joint efforts of the conflagration of war.

In our view, the main result of President Geydar Aliyev's visit to Turkey is that the world community was shown once again the good will of Azerbaijan and its sincere aspiration to a termination of the senseless war and to peace as the sole possibility of human existence.

Georgia

Checkpoints Ready, Mines Cleared for Peacekeepers

LD2406103794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0924 GMT 24 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 24 Jun—Engineering work has been completed at the sites where the peacekeeping forces are to be deployed along the line of confrontation of the Georgian and Abkhazian armed formations. A total of 11 posts have been equipped, five of them are situated in the area of the Inguri GES [hydroelectric power station], and three near the town of Gali. ITAR-TASS learned this at the Abkhazian Press and Information Ministry, which quoted reports released by the joint command of the peacekeeping forces. According to the source, all routes for troop movements have been cleared of mines and a checkpoint on a bridge across the Inguri river has started to operate.

The headquarters of the peacekeeping forces are situated in Galskiy and Zugdidskiy Rayons of Abkhazia.

Russian Peacemakers Tasks in Abkhazia Eyed

PM2406092194 Moscow TRUD in Russian 24 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Igor Chernov: "Peacemaking in Abkhazia"]

[Text] Sukhumi-Sochi—It looks as if 26 June has been set as the latest official date for the start of peacekeeping operations in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone. All news agencies have been informed that Russian military units, which are due to take up positions between the warring sides' armed formations in the next two-three days, have started moving into Abkhazia. Reports on the specific timing of the introduction of peacemakers started circulating after the Federation Council, at its 21 June sitting behind closed doors, adopted a decision on the use of Russian troops in peacekeeping operations in Abkhazia and ratified the relevant presidential edict. According to Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, the military perceived this decision as an order to act.

In fact, the Russian military have been in action in Abkhazia since August 1992. On the eve of the official introduction of peacemakers in the conflict zone, it would be apt to recall that military pilots from Russian Air Force subunits based at Gudauta airfield and servicemen from the 345th Airborne Assault Regiment transferred from Ganja to Gudauta have been inside this zone since the very start of the Georgian-Abkhazian war. For almost two years they have performed the functions of peacemakers: Transporting people out of the fire zone, helping thousands of refugees, and—mainly—restraining the adversaries by their presence and preventing them from applying scorched-earth tactics.

At present the soldiers and officers of the 345th Airborne Assault Regiment, together with paratroopers from the Volga and Leningrad Military Districts, are preparing to take up positions along the Inguri River. Incidentally, the movement of paratroopers, military construction personnel, sappers, communications specialists, and their equipment to Gudauta had already started by the end of May (TRUD reported this in its 2 June 1994 issue). The first subunits arrived in Abkhazia at that time for the purpose of carrying out serious preparatory work—deploying the staff of the peacemaking forces and their control and command posts, organizing communications, defusing tens of thousands of mines and demolition charges, repairing eight bridges.... All the signs indicated that the Russian peacemakers intend to deploy in Abkhazia and the border region of western Georgia in depth and for a long time.

Even a press center has been set up for the Russian peacemaking forces. Its staffers said that preparatory work has been almost completed and checkpoints will soon start operating on the highway bridge across the Inguri River along which the Georgian-Abkhazian border runs and which, until very recently, has been the dividing line between the adversaries. There are plans to set up a total of 50 permanent Army checkpoints in the conflict zone. The total number of Russian "blue helmets" in Abkhazia will reach 3,000 men.

If truth be said, the Federation Council's decision to use Russian troops in peacekeeping operations was accepted as a necessary formality in Sukhumi. Nobody here had any doubt that the decision would be positive, seeing that the plan for the separation of the sides and the introduction of "blue helmets" was already being practically implemented by 21 June. In accordance with this plan, elaborated and agreed by the Abkhazian and Georgian military with mediation from Russian Defense Ministry officers, the region along the Inguri River is declared a security zone. The zone is 24 km wide (12 km on each side of the river). All armed formations, together with their combat equipment of course, will be completely withdrawn from the zone. The Georgian and Abkhazian positions will come under the peacemaking forces' control. The plan provides that areas adjacent to the security zone will be restricted armaments zones—areas where the adversaries' military units may be stationed but without heavy combat equipment. Thus, once the "blue helmets" have been introduced, the warring sides will find themselves at a distance in excess of the maximum fire range of the most powerful artillery systems at their disposal.

The problem of the Kodor Gorge, the scene of heavy fighting on several occasions this year, has been resolved and, hopefully, permanently: Under the plan for the separation of the sides, all Georgian formations in the gorge will be withdrawn outside Abkhazia, while regular patrols by peacemakers and UN military observers will operate in population centers along the banks of the Kodor River.

What will the Russian paratroopers be doing in Abkhazia? Major General Vasiliy Yakushev, commander of peacemaking operations in the conflict zone, explained that the tasks facing the peacemakers stem from the Agreement on Cease-Fire and Separation of the Sides, which was signed by representatives of Georgia, Abkhazia, Russia, and the United Nations in Moscow 14 June. The document clearly states that the peacemakers' task is to monitor the unconditional observance of the cease-fire. In the event of threatened attack against peacemaking subunits, and especially in the event of direct attack, they have the right to take appropriate self-defense measures.

Of course, one of the main purposes of the introduction of peacemaking forces in Abkhazia is to create conditions for the return of refugees and displaced persons to the republic. So far, however, the refugees who are impatiently awaiting permission to return home, have no cause to rejoice: The finer details of the procedure for registration and repatriation of people have yet to be worked out. In my view, the commission whose task it is to tackle the problems of the refugees' repatriation will encounter serious complications: I saw no vacant homes during my visit to Galskiy Rayon. They are occupied by people whose homes have been destroyed. Where will they be housed if the homes have to be vacated for their former occupants?

On the whole, however, the introduction of Russian peacemaking forces in the Inguri River region is accepted in Abkhazia calmly, without any fuss. Or, to put it more accurately, with less fuss than in Russia. People here realize that the peacemakers will not eliminate the causes which made the war flare out. According to Abkhazian politicians, the unrecognized republic will have to live for a long time to come in conditions of frozen conflict and uncertain political status. But this is of course better than existing on the brink of death.

Kondratyev, Abkhaz Defense Minister Meet

LD2306205494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1507 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 23 Jun—The question of cooperation between the peacekeeping forces of Russia and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Abkhazia was discussed today at a meeting between Russian Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondratyev, who has arrived in Sukhumi, and Sultan Sosnoliyev, the defense minister of the republic of Abkhazia. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told of this at the Abkhazian Ministry of Information and Press.

Economic Accords Reached at Abkhaz Meeting

LD2306165394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1013 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 23 Jun—The Georgian and Abkhazian sides will ask the peacekeeping forces to speed up the mine clearing operations in the area where the pylons of the Inguri GES [hydroelectric power station] power transmission lines are situated. The pylons have been damaged as a result of recent subversive operations.

Feliks Kovalev, Russian special envoy, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today that an accord to this effect was reached in the course of the second session of the Georgian-Abkhazian coordinating commission in charge of economic issues, held with the participation of the Russian Federation and UN representatives in Sochi.

"We also asked the Abkhazian delegation to lift the restrictions on power supplies for Georgia, introduced by the Abkhazian side as part of a package of sanctions," Feliks Kovalev further said.

The session also examined issues of restoring the power supply lines that cross the territory of Abkhazia. According to the Russian diplomat, an accord was reached to set up a group of experts that will estimate the extent of damage done to the power supply lines.

According to Feliks Kovalev, "certain difficulties emerged" during the discussion of the restoration of through road and rail services.

Estonia

Laar Comments on Yeltsin Border Decree

LD2206161094 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Mart Laar, commenting today on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decree of 21 June on Russia unilaterally demarcating the Estonian-Russian state border, said that this is an unprecedented case internationally. According to the prime minister, it is particularly regrettable that this step was taken at a time when talks between Estonian and Russian representatives are in progress. Laar thinks that this is probably a case of Russia putting pressure on Estonia in order to achieve concessions with regard to resolving the issue of Russian military pensioners who live here.

At the same time, Laar stated that Estonia will firmly retain her position and continue to call for the Russian troop withdrawal by 31 August of this year. Estonia will definitely approach international organizations in order to resolve the conflict that has resulted from this strained situation, Laar emphasized.

Community Leaders Reject Residence Permit Statement

WS2306111494 Tallinn BNS in English 1748 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Tallinn, June 22, BNS—Leaders of Russian community in Estonia don't agree with a statement Nikolay Yugantsov, Russian Representative Assembly chairman, and Alexey Zybin, the elder of Russian community, released last week.

The statement demanded that Estonian authorities give residence permits to all persons registered as residents before July 1990, except those categories of residents listed in the aliens law as ineligible, military retirees among them.

Pyotr Rozhok, chairman of Russian community in Estonia's committee on Russian citizens' problems and representative of Vladimir Zhirinovsky's Liberal Democratic Party in Estonia, now issued a counter-statement declaring that his organization actually wants permanent residence permits for all non-citizens who lived permanently in Estonia before July 1993 when the aliens law was adopted.

Rozhok claimed Russian community in Estonia had forbidden Zybin to speak on behalf of the organization. In his opinion, the Yugantsov-Zybin statement actually supported "deportation of military pensioners."

Today's statement was signed, besides Rozhok, by Zybin's deputy, Stanislav Mikhailov, and another Russian Community leader, Yuri Kotenkov.

Latvia

U.S. Experts To Advise on Skrunda Radar Dismantling

WS2306111594 Tallinn BNS in English 1748 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Riga, Jun 22, BNS—A group of U.S. specialists finish their work in Riga on Wednesday after having got acquainted with the new installation of the Skrunda radar compound to prepare recommendations how to dismantle it and how much the dismantling will cost.

The American and Latvian experts coordinated the basic issues of two draft agreeements on the dismantling of the building, said Latvia's representative Aivars Vovers. As reported, the U.S. Government pledged 2 million USD to dismantle the facility.

Latvia will receive similar recommendations from Swedish experts who also visited the radar site this week.

Latvia should prepare itself a concept to channel the foreign assistance to the concrete dismantlers, which will be chosen during a competition, said Vovers. The time of the next meeting depends on the speed of processing of the acquired information. Latvia is interested in speeding up the process, Vovers noted.

UK Asks for Review of Citizenship Law Restrictions

LD2306204494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1945 GMT 23 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Serov]

[Text] London June 23 TASS—Great Britain has called upon the Latvian leadership to reconsider "restrictive" clauses in its draft citizenship law, taking into consideration the recommendations made by the CSCE (Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe) and the Council of Europe, a British Foreign Office spokesman said today, commenting upon the Russian Foreign Ministry statement issued on Wednesday [22 June], which condemns the aforesaid act as discriminatory.

The British Foreign Office understands the complexity experienced by Latvia in search of a solution to the question about the future status of the people, who are not citizens of the republic. But it regards that the integration of the ethnic minorities constitutes an important prerequisite for ensuring long-term stability in the region, and therefore, expresses concern over some of the aspects of the draft citiznship law, which was adopted after its third reading in the parliament on June 21, the British Foreign Office spokesman indicated.

Representative Initials Free Trade Agreement With EU

WS2206131494 Tallinn BNS in English 1208 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Riga, Jun 21, BNS—The Latvian Government's authorized representative—the European Union (EU) Affairs State Minister Olgerts Pavlovskis initialled Monday in Brussels the free trade agreement with the EU, Foreign Ministry's press center told BNS.

As reported, Pavlovskis considers that the signing of the agreement is not only of economic importance but also political one, because the agreement gives guarantees for Latvia's security. The agreement and the declaration added to it provide for Latvia to sign also the associated agreement in nearest future, and then become a full and equal member of the EU. The period of Latvia's joining the EU can last from six to ten years, says Pavlovskis.

If the Saeima (parliament) ratifies the free trade agreement in November, import duty will not be imposed upon Latvian goods in the EU starting from January 1, 1995. Besides, Latvia will be able to increase export of its produce to the EU.

Some of Latvian industrial goods will have a 2-4 year long transitional period to enable their entering the free market. The free trade principles will not refer to agricultural products, but three protocols will regulate the trade with them providing for certain quotas for mutual trade. The protocols regulating the trade with the agriculture goods say that the EU plans to endow Latvia trade quotas for beef, pork, butter and cheese.

Pavlovskis noted that Latvian produce lacks attractive and qualitative packing, and it could prevent full use of the EU endowed quotas. But it is very important that the quotas, granted to Latvia, enable Latvia to sell its production in Europe.

Pavlovskis considers that worries about the agreements negative influence upon Latvian agriculture and industry are not motivated, because Latvia, according to the initialled agreement, will have a four year long transitional period during which import duty tariffs will be decreased for the EU agriculture products.

The Agriculture Ministry's specialists support the ready for signing additional protocols to the free trade agreement on the procedure of import duty tariffs decreasing for agriculture products, because the agreement provides for the order according to which Latvia's inner market could be defended from excessive flowing in of agricultural products from the EU.

The EU has determined a zero import duty tariff for Latvian made textile industry goods, and it endows quotas allowing Latvia to export only 30 percent of its textile industry goods, said Pavlovsis. Latvia will grant favorable terms mainly to goods that are not made in Latvia at all, and also to vegetables in winter.

The free trade agreement will promote flowing in of foreign investments to Latvia, setting up of joint ventures with Latvian producers, whose production could be sold in European states' markets, said Pavlovskis. Pavlovskis also noted that the quotas for industrial and agricultural products could be revised every three years thus effectively regulating the development of Latvia's foreign trade.

Latvia's 5th Saeima plans to accept the free trade agreement with the EU in October, 1994. The Latvian delegation will return from Brussels on June 21.

Protocol on Diplomatic Relations Signed With Nicaragua

LD2206191494 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1500 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The Latvian Foreign Ministry reports that the authorized representatives of Latvia and Nicaragua in New York have signed a protocol on establishing diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. The signatories expressed the conviction that it will promote and strengthen cooperation between the two countries in diplomatic, interparliamentary, economic relations, and in the cultural sphere.

The protocol was signed by Aivars Baumanis, Latvia's permanent representative to the United Nations, and Erich Asher, the permanent representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations.

Budget Deficit Hits 16 Million Lats on 1 Jun

WS2306104394 Tallinn BNS in English 1508 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Riga, Jun 22, BNS—The 16.3-million-lat state budget deficit on June 1 was completely covered with state treasury bills, Finance Ministry's Budget Department Director Gatis Kaminskis told reporters.

In the first five months of this year, the budget earned 211.8 million lats, or 36.9 percent of the projected yearly revenues, while the spendings hit 219 million lats, or 35.6 percent of the planned yearly expenditure.

Commenting on the budget situation in the first five months of this year, Kaminskis noted that budget incomes exceeded spendings 2.8 million lats what reduced the prevalence of spendings over incomes from 10.4 million lats late in April to 7.19 million lats late in May.

The Latvian economy currently enjoys a process of stabilization because in May the inflation rate was the lowest this year, only 0.2 percent compared to April. In total, the inflation grew 12.4 percent since the beginning of this year.

Kaminskis underscored that the prediction that the inflation would soar after the introduction of the uniform 18 percent sales tax on all food stuffs in the beginning of June has not materialized. He also called for the improvement of the taxation system because the debts of sales tax and profit tax-payers to the national budget have increased.

Sales tax payments formed 66.2 million lats of the state budget earnings in the first five months of this year but the sum is 1.8 times smaller than in the same period last year. The debt of sales tax-payers to the state budget makes up around 3 million lats and the State Income Service should find out the reason for the tendency of this debt to grow, Kaminskis noted.

The excise duty payments have also been unsatisfactory between January and May as they formed only 23.5 percent of the projected excise revenues.

Larger But Insufficient Family Incomes Reported

WS2206120794 Tallinn BNS in English 1526 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Riga, Jun 21, BNS—The income of 1,300 interviewed families increased 41.5 percent in the first quarter of 1994 compared to the same period last year, the Latvian State Statistics Committee said. The index of consumer prices rose 34.6 percent in the period what means that the purchasing ability of residents grew 5.1 percent. However, compared to the fourth quarter of 1993 the real purchasing ability did not rise.

Regardless of the slight increase of family income, the families generally failed to earn the subsistence basket which was recently worth 48.74 lats and even the crisis subsistence basket which was worth 38.44 lats because the average monthly income per family was 34.54 lats in the first quarter of 1994.

The income of urban families grew 47 percent to reach 39.66 lats per each family member in month while the income of rural families increased 28.6 percent.

The income of families with average monthly earnings 25 lats per one member increased from 16.74 lats in the first quarter of last year to 18.49 lats in the first quarter of this year.

The income of families with average earnings 45 lats and more increased from 60.42 lats to 65.29 lats per month.

The incomes increased thanks to the growth of official salaries from 15.53 lats to 22.55 lats, as well as resources donated by public and pension funds.

Ruble Exchange Against Lats Ends 30 Jun

WS2306103794 Tallinn BNS in English 1303 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Riga, Jun 22, BNS—The Bank of Latvia exchanges the old Latvian rubles against lats until June 30 in its central office and branch offices in Rezekne, Valmiera, Daugavpils, Jelgava and Liepaja.

The central bank issued 28,510,345,000 Latvian rubles in paper money, said the bank's spokesman Edzus Vejins. The transition to the national currency, the lat, started March 5, 1993 when the first lats were introduced. The lat became the only legal tender in Latvia on Oct. 18, 1993, but rubles are still accepted for exchange.

Latvian residents kept 58.570 million rubles on April 1, Vejins said. In June, the central bank exchanged 1,835,498 rubles.

The exchange rate is 1 lats against 200 Latvian rubles.

Lithuania

President Welcomes Russia Joining Partnership for Peace

LD2206202594 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English in Lithuanian 1900 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Lithuania has welcomed Russia's joining the NATO Partnership for Peace plan. Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas says in his 22 June statement that it's an important step in the strengthening of security in Europe based on cooperation and partnership, as well as new democratic relations on the continent. We hope that will help Central Europe, including the Baltic states, integrate into NATO, reads the statement of the Lithuanian president.

Mr. Brazauskas says Lithuania approves of NATO's initiative to take on a new role in stepping up security and stability in the region. According to the statement, Russia's step towards NATO means it will not be isolated in this process and no new military borders will be drawn in Europe.

Premier on Economic Program, Relations With Russia

LD2306143094 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius replied to questions from journalists at a traditional news conference today. He also agreed to reply to questions by a correspondent of this program.

Asked whether there will be any changes in the government economic policy after the Seimas debate on a government no- confidence vote, Slezevicius said:

[Begin Slezevicius recording] We have very carefully studied all statements without exception by Seimas members. We have analyzed all critical remarks and focussed our attention on many of them during the preparation of a corrected government program. As you know, the no-confidence issue is one side of the matter, but now, in accordance with our constitution, we have, after a change of more than a half of the members of the cabinet, submitted a new government program to the Seimas. [end recording]

Having stated that the stability of the litas is helping the development of the economy but is not sufficient to make this development more dynamic, Slezevicius continued:

[Begin Slezevicius recording] In our program we emphasize our attention on those issues which require a very fast solution. This includes taxation policy, the administration of taxes, the control of borders, and improvement of the work of the customs offices. And, of course, it is very important to step up the investment process. [passage omitted]

A limiting factor in the development of the economy is the very high cost of credits, and, of course, not a single investor is able to use local credits for investment processes. This is closely connected with the credit resources of our commercial banks and with the stability of these banks. Together with the Central Bank, we have to accomplish a great deal in this sphere, so that the price of credits in our country goes down in a more dynamic manner than now. [end recording]

Slezevicius then stressed the government's tasks in creating favorable trading conditions for Lithuania's industry and businessmen and mentioned that at a foreign policy coordinating committee meeting relations with Russia were discussed today. Then he continued:

[Begin Slevevicius recording] As you know our relations with Russia are being extensively discussed. They are closely linked with the strategic situation of the Kaliningrad region and with the necessity of normalizing transit through our country. As it happens, our country is situated between two territories of Russia and our task is to find together with Russia mutually acceptable means of solving all problems. [passage omitted]

I think that we will find mutually acceptable solutions in the immediate future and that the agreement signed by Mr Chernomyrdin on 18 November will be implemented. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry on 'Concern' Over Yeltsin Decree

WS2406073294 Vilnius ELTA in English 1813 GMT 23 Jun 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 528]

[Text] Vilnius, June 23, ELTA—Department for Information and Media at the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry has distributed the following statement.

President of Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin June 21 has signed the decree "On Demarcation of Borders Between the Russian Federation and Estonian Republic". On this basis the Russia is going to demarcate the border between the states unilaterally.

Foreign Ministry of Lithuania expresses concern about such a position of Russia that contradicts the requirements of the European Security and Cooperation Conference to strive for agreements by means of negotiations, without any pressure.

The Ministry encourages Russia to abstain from unilateral actions which could threaten the stability in the region.

Slezevicius-Landsbergis TV Debate on Privatization

LD2406084794 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] A televised debate between Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius and Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the Homeland Union, was held yesterday.

During the debate, the leader of the right-wing opposition claimed that a privatization by the nomenclature is taking place in Lithuania with former leaders purchasing property at a half its true price. Therefore a draft law on the indexation of savings, proposed by the Homeland Union, is, above all, a means of combating organized crime and corruption by officials.

Adolfas Slezevicius, prime minister and leader of the governing Democratic Labor Party, rejected what he described as unfounded accusations and claimed that such problems have existed through all stages of privatization. In the prime minister's opinion, accusations about privatization by the nomenclature are only an element in the class struggle.

The prime minister assessed unfavorably the economic consequences of the law on savings compensation initiated by the Homeland Union.

The issue of increasing personal income was also raised during the discussion. According to Vytautas Landsbergis, the growth in personal incomes has been maintained by foreign credits. Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius said at a press conference on Thursday that such discussions are useful because the parties in the same state must serve the common state and not narrow party interests. Therefore, political compromises must be sought in political activity.

Landsbergis on Importance of Clinton Riga Visit

LD2406103094 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] The forthcoming visit to Riga by U.S. President Bill Clinton may become an important political event strengthening the international security of the three Baltic states, says a statement by right-wing opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis which was made public today. Lithuania should support the positions of Latvia and Estonia in two separate and not linked issues: a speedy and unconditional withdrawal of Russian troops and a citizenship law, Vytautas Landsbergis notes.

As is known, the Presidents of the United States and the Baltic states are to meet in Riga 6 July.

In Landsbergis's opinion, at this meeting Lithuania should ensure support for its government's stand, which is supported by the Seimas opposition, that Russia's demands to conclude a bilateral military transit treaty with Lithuania are political and should be rejected as contrary to the provisions of the Lithuanian Constitution and Lithuania's national interests. According to Vytautas Landsbergis, it is also very important to know whether the principles of equal rights and opportunities in the relations of states with NATO are still being adhered to, or whether the West will be drawn into an Orwellian world where one NATO partner is (?more equal) than the others.

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